真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝

天地無用！GXP 8

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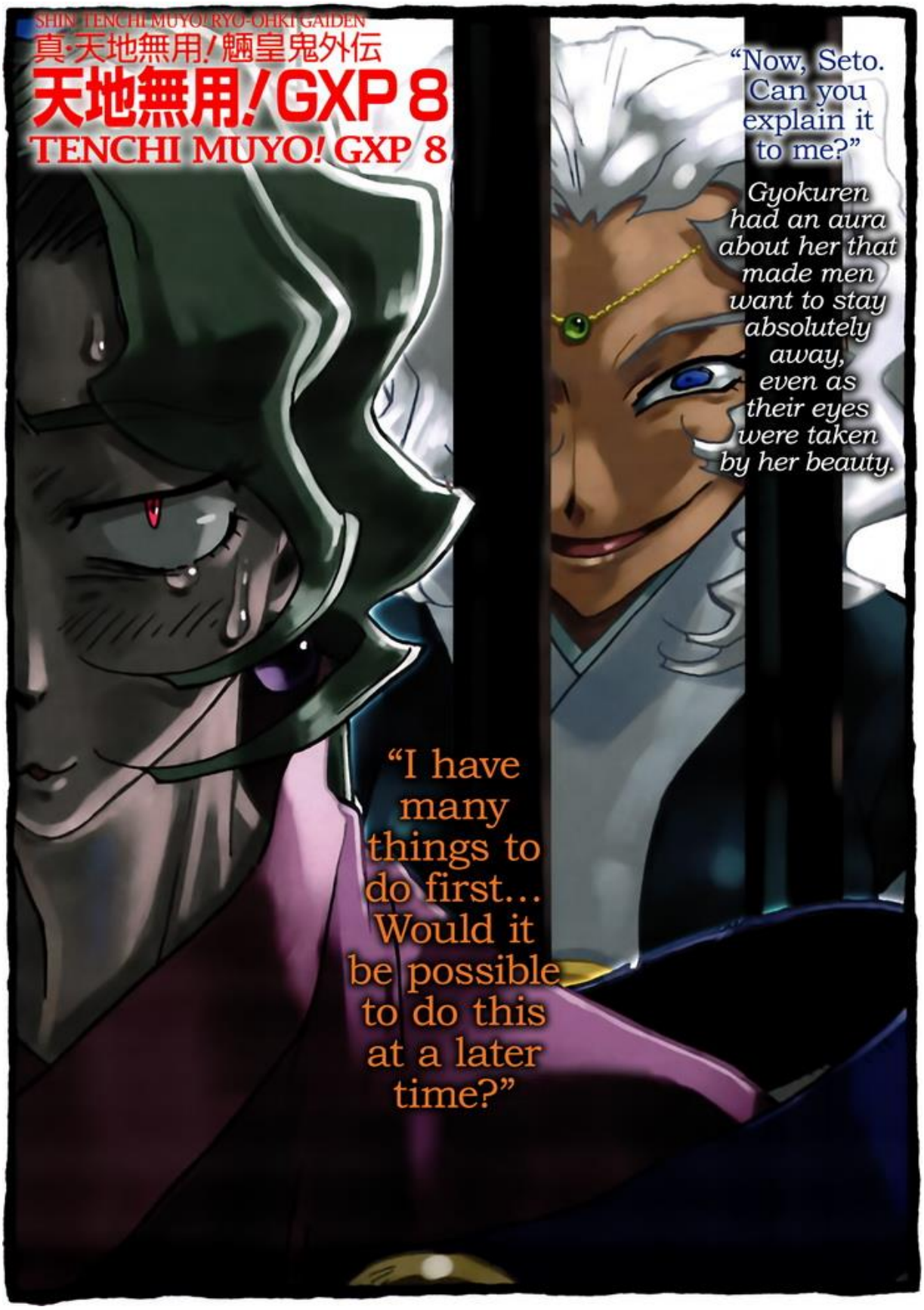
SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝
天地無用！GXP 8
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 8
"Now, Seto. Can you explain it to me?"
Gyokuren had an aura about her that made men want to stay absolutely away, even as their eyes were taken by her beauty.
"I have many things to do first... Would it be possible to do this at a later time?"

Amane and the others had created some shade with several parasols, and they were sprawled lazily underneath them.
Amane, in particular, turned over every now and then, as she waited for the moment that Seina would look her way.
Then she would pretend to adjust her bathing suit and move in ways to accentuate her breasts.
And then she enjoyed the sight of Seina averting his eyes in embarrassment, and Neju becoming furious in an instant.

Kiriko and the others took off all of their clothes and entered the long-distance teleportation gate once again.
However...
Beeeeep!!
The weight limit alarm went off again, unsympathetically.

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Chapter One: The First Time Leaving and Returning

On that day, the Masaki family greeted the morning with a restless atmosphere that was different from usual, it was more fidgety. Like a morning on the day of a festival, a happy smile appeared on everyone's face. On that spring day when the young trees were busy sprouting, each and every one of them was doing their share of the morning chores.

And in the kitchen something unusual was happening. Washu who was usually busy in the laboratory was preparing breakfast with Sasami with a smile on her face.

“Hun, Huh hoon ~ ♪”

Although the name of the song she was singing wasn't certain, Washu was singing and humming a song in a good mood as she handled a fish.

“Washu-oneechan, where did you get that fish?” Sasami asked with an uneasy expression.

“Huh? It’s the same fish we always eat that we farmed in the pond.”

Something seemed strange to Sasami but as Washu said it was the same old fish that they usually had.

*** * * Translators’ note: Is this an OVA 4 “We should eat the monsters in Washu's lab” reference?! * * ***

“Ah ... oh, I guess that's true isn't it? Ahahahaha.” Sasami quickly looked away from Washu and began to devote herself to her cooking.

“You're funny Sasami-chan.” Washu smiled and started handling the fish again, but suddenly Sasami noticed that she was using a surgical scalpel.

“Oh, I see.”

Washu using a surgical scalpel was no doubt a little worrisome. Of course, the surgical scalpel was properly and perfectly sterilized and washed, and she wasn't dismantling it or anything, but the Lord of the kitchen was Sasami. If the Lord had an uncomfortable feeling, it must have had some merit.

“... Hmm ... I should use a tool that works better than this.” Washu said as she took out the small scissors from the kitchen stand near the sink, she looked at the blade, and then washed the surgical scalpel lightly.

“Wow!” Washu, satisfied with the work of the scissors craftsman and Sasami's splendid sharpening again began to deal with the fish.

(... Whew)

Sasami who was relieved that Washu's ominous atmosphere had disappeared sighed a small sigh in her heart.

“Sasami-chan, I picked the eastern third field today. I have a good feeling about these.” Tenchi came in with a basket of carrots.

Sasami rushed over to Tenchi to get away from Washu for a moment, she looked into the basket. “I see why, they have a nice and sweet fragrance, Ryo-chan will be pleased.” Sasami gladly said while sniffing the fresh fragrance of the carrots.

The atmosphere in which the Masaki family floated was due to Noike. A supervisor had told her that Ryo-Ohki was to go into space to visit Jurai. Ryo-Ohki wasn't the only one lonely being stuck on the Earth. The people of the Masaki family were also the same.

“Well, time for the next step.” Washu said as she began to deal with fish again.

“Yeah, we have to finish preparing the meal before they come home.”

“Well then, I'll wash the carrots.” Sasami and Tenchi began doing their usual roles with Washu.

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One hour later, Tenchi was staring at the breakfast lined up on the table, everyone was staring at the table silently.

“It's late ... Where's Ryo-chan?” Sasami muttered in the silence as if she was in trouble.

“Oh is that what you're wandering about?” Ryoko said. “What if she's lost again?”

“You must be kidding, I don't think so. She's not some lost child wondering the galaxy aimlessly, she's on her way to Jurai.” Ryoko waved off the anxieties of Ayeka.

“But ~ but, maybe something's wrong ...” Mihoshi said.

“Ryoko-oneechan, don't you know where she is?” Sasami said looking at Ryoko's face with a suspicious and anxious expression.

“My link with the ship is blocked, ask Washu.” Ryoko said.

“I can't do anything about it until they get home ... Well, speak of the devil, I'm getting a call from Noike.” Washu launched a big monitor so that everyone could see.

“!?”

Everyone in the house gazed at the monitor with anxiety and tension on their faces, but the tension relieved when they saw Noike’s smiling face that was projected on it. Except for Ryoko who was relieved by the fact that no one was demanding things of her anymore.

“Sorry Ms. Washu. We have instruction to remain as low key as possible until returning to the Earth...”

“It sounds like you've had a hard time, so what happened?”

“Yes. When Ryo-chan entered the solar system ...” Another window frame opened on the monitor, and a filmy object made of light was projected there.

“Oh, Amorphos, it's rare to see them near the solar system.”

“Ms. Washu ... the Amorphos, that’s the creature they called the butterfly of the universe, isn't it?”

“Butterfly of the universe?” Tenchi showed interest in Ayeka's question and stared at the monitor.

“It's a group of fine filamentous creatures that uses trace amounts of interstellar matter and energy as food. Occasionally it comes near stars and so it can get a lot of energy. It's called a butterfly because it looks like one.''

“Ha ... butterflies,” Tenchi's expression at hearing this was filled with a complicated emotion. Previously, Ryo-Ohki had chased the butterflies nearby, and she didn't notice her surroundings when she did and often fell off the hill or down the river or sometimes into the road into oncoming traffic... If she was an ordinary child she would have been seriously injured.

Of course, Ryo-Ohki was Washu's masterpiece and wasn't going to be injured by such things so she was not worried about scratches and would chase the butterfly without noticing that it was dangerous.

Sometimes people came down the road to Masaki village and they didn't want her hit by a car, scaring them, so they had issued a “butterfly chasing prohibition” to Ryo-Ohki, and recently, Ryo-Ohki had begun to understand why ...

“Haha, sorry, that child of mine never learns ... Well, I'm sure when you get home you'll want to relax.”

Ryo-Ohki traveling in space was no different than her traveling in the fields.

“So Noike, is that what took so long?”

“Eh??”

“Amorpho's are a few hundred kilometers in size each at least and those are just the small ones ...” Washu laughed.

“It's that big!?” Tenchi exclaimed.

“The largest one recorded was thirty light-years long. They found it right outside the galaxy. It's not very interesting though. Even if you go near them they won't move or notice you, so there's no reason to get excited.”

“As Washu said, she immediately lost interested and started heading back to the Earth, but it made me nervous ... She seems more interested in checking out the planets than anything else ...”

“The solar system here is pretty rich, isn't it ...?”

“... Remember when I broke Saturn's rings ...?”

“Uhuhu! Yeah, nice going!” Washu gave him a thumbs down.

“Yeah and Ryoko scribbled on the Chobimaru.”

Ayeka looked at Ryoko with cold eyes.

Previously, Ryoko had gone on a drunk rampage and used the Gungnir on Mihoshi's younger brother's planetary scale ship, the “Chobimaru”, and now it had continental scale graffiti all over its surface.

“Yup, that was me!”

“Ryo-Ohki is your little sister you shouldn't be so reckless with her.”

“Hey, I could say the same to you princess.”

“What!?”

“Why is Sasami here?”

“Oh……” Ayeka was unable to refute Ryoko's teasing. Sasami came with her in secret because she was worried about Ayeka running away. It was a little bit different in Ryoko's case, but it was the same in the sense that she got dragged into her sister's careless behavior.

“... Oh, you’re right ... That is certainly true, I guess we will just have to be careful from now on.”

“Yeah…”

“Ryoko and Ayeka's fights sure have matured.” The two often bumped heads but Ryoko was fond of Sasami and Ayeka fond of Ryo-Ohki.

“Well, I gotta go. We should be back home in about 30 minutes.” Noike said and then she hung up.

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Thirty minutes after Noike said that, Ryo-Ohki came down from the sky above the Masaki family home accompanied by Noike's ship, Kyoko.

Sasami got out on the veranda and waved towards the sky. First, Ryo-Ohki settled to the bottom of the pond in front of Masaki family home, followed by Kyoko who disappeared from the surface gate of the pond into subspace.

“Miah! Miya!”

Ryo-Ohki came out of the small gate that Kyoko disappeared into along with Noike.

”Mi! ... Miaaaaaah~~~~” Ryo-Ohki, with tears in her eyes, jumped into Sasami's arms right out of Noike's hands.

“Welcome home ... Ryo-chan.” Sasami hugged Ryo-Ohki.

“Miaaaaaaaah!” Ryo-Ohki nuzzled Sasami and quit crying. She had been lonely. “Mia! Miaw! Mi! Miaw!”

Tenchi, Ryoko, Ayeka, Mihoshi came around Sasami, with Washu, one after the other they petted her head.

“Nyan!”

A smile returned to Ryo-Ohki's face. She was finally satisfied and went with Sasami to have breakfast, which was a bit late.

Ryo-Ohki began to eat greedily like it was the first or last time she would ever be able to eat. Of course on Jurai, many delicacies from both the land and sea were served to her, and their basic recipes were the same as the ones Sasami and Noike used. So they were what Ryo-Ohki was used to eating.

Moreover, the ingredients and cooks used were Jurai's finest. Only one thing was missing, Ryo-Ohki's favorite carrots. The carrots Tenchi grew were the best.

Washu had improved the soil and varieties, and the carrots grown carefully by Tenchi were superior to those grown in fields that made ingredients exclusively for Jurai's royal family, and the varieties were far better. They were especially suited to Ryo-Ohki's tastes.

But luckily at the Masaki home, many dishes had been made with her favorite carrots that day.

“Miya, Mia, Mia!” Ryo-Ohki finally caught her breath and started talking about her journey.

This was her first time traveling space alone. She was used to the fear and anxiety that came with being tasked with transporting her sister safely. Her tension however went away when she arrived safely in Jurai to a big welcome.

“Miu ~ ~ ~” Ryo-Ohki’s story of gradually got faster, till it had the momentum of a machine gun. She would occasionally stop to nibble a carrot and enjoy its taste before she resumed talking.

Among the stories of her trip, Ryo-Ohki talked particularly enthusiastically and happily about Seina. That was enough for Ryoko and Sasami to be lightly jealous, as they heard about the exciting part of her trip.

“I bet that boy was relieved when you showed up.” Washu said. Ryoko had a slightly complicated expression as she agreed.

“Well ... What are we going to do now?”

Ryo-Ohki had finished her lunch.

“Well ... Uhm ... Maybe we should just do what we normally do ...” Noike said to Tenchi's question after looking at Sasami.

“I'd like that.”

Noike confirmed that there was no objection before she picked up the teapot and cups and headed to the kitchen.

“Well, I'll be in the field.”

“Myan!” Ryo-Ohki got on Tenchi's shoulder after turning back into a cabbit.

Tenchi thought about how Ryo-Ohki had just returned from a long trip and he tried to tell her to stay at home but she wouldn't listen. (... Well, if she gets tired she can take a nap in the shade of trees I guess) he thought.

Ryo-Ohki got off of his shoulders transformed and went out with him to the fields. “Myan, Myan!”

As usual on the way to the field, Ryo-Ohki was walking in front of Tenchi while dancing around. Tenchi liked that sight, it felt pleasant, as if his usual everyday life had resumed. “Even so ... Seina is as unlucky as ever.” Tenchi stopped and raised his face to look at the sky.

“Miah?” Ryo-Ohki who noticed Tenchi stop, suddenly looked at him strangely. She felt a bit uneasy like she thought Tenchi was going to watch the sky forever. “Mia!” She cried loudly.

“Oh, sorry, I was thinking about Seina.”

“Miah ...” Ryo-Ohki ran to Tenchi and got on his shoulder, she looked up in the same direction as Tenchi.

“What is he doing these days?” he said while petting Ryo-Ohki's head.

Chapter Two: Return

The new Kamidake was still on Jurai. Although bubbles had formed around it due to its high energy output, it was still inside the adjustment tank.

With Seina's body as the biological key, Seina alone was the first person to transfer inside of it. “Is this the bridge?”

However, it was dim, so he could hardly see inside. Perhaps this was the center of the bridge? An egg-like unit on a pentagonal table was faintly visible. The only light source was a faint light that was just barely floating above the middle part of the floor and the steps leading to it.

“Is that a switch?” While paying attention to his feet, Seina carefully went up the stairs but he tripped over the top step as he got on it and fell over the upper floor. He got up quickly and moved in front of the central table.

“... If I touch this will it shock me?” The light of the egg shaped unit made him think of a plasma ball lamp, the ones with the metal ball in the glass and it discharged to the glass part when you touch it.

Seina took out some gloves and put them on and carefully moved his hand closer. But he stopped just before touching it. Nothing appeared to be coming out of it. Seina took off his gloves in relief and placed his hand on it.

“Seina!”

The moment Seina put his hands on it, the lights turned on in the bridge and Kiriko was transferred in.

“Erma, NB. Get ready to get started right away!” Without looking around the inside of the bridge, Kiriko made a beeline for the center table and placed her hand on the authentication plate on the table. Her hand was scanned and around the chair a force field went up. She started checking a monitor with keyboard that started up in front of her.

However…….

“What's this?! The required programs aren't installed at all!” Kiriko said in a loud voice that echoed in the bridge of Kamidake.

“Really? Life support and environmental controls seem to be working perfectly.”

“Erma, how about you?”

“I can't make heads or tails of this ... I can't do anything but everything seems to be manually operated.” Erma said in confusion.

“What's the matter?”

“As I expected, we already have system problems, we can't take it out into the field like this ...” Amane shrugged her shoulders and then looked up at the ceiling. Seina also followed Amane's line of sight.

“This is a strange bridge ... It's small ... But it seems like a mineral version of royal ship doesn't it.”

“That's a good way to put it, from what I can tell many of the facilities of this ship are stored in several different subspaces.”

Most of the bridge of the Kamidake was made of stone and crystal, and had the shape of a pentagonal pyramid as a whole but there was a monitor plate on the ceiling and the height of ceiling itself was very overwhelming.

“It's about thirty meters tall don't you think, but something seems strange ... I wonder if it's just for decoration.”

“Amane, I think that it might be a movable plate. The bridge changes shape to suit the usage situation.” Erma said.

“Oh, I see.”

“Anyway why is there no manual control system? I feel like if I press the wrong thing something awful could happen. Do you think Seto knows anything?”

“Let's see.” Kiriko said and so they called the Mikagami.

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“Seto-sama ... When Seina entered the ship, wasn't that girl supposed to be born?” Minaho tilted her head while looking at the Kamidake.

“That's what Washu said, but ... this is Seina were talking about here right? ... Oh, hold on ... I'm getting a call from Kiriko.”

Kiriko appeared on the monitor.

“I understand what's wrong already, I'll contact Washu on earth immediately, but I need you to get started on escorting Neiju.”

“I wish we could but the ship won't move ...”

“Really? It should work just like the original Kamidake.”

“The original Kamidake!?”

“I know that is a bit unexpected but yes.”

“Ok I'll try that.”

“Don't worry the legendary philosopher, Washu created it. It's just how she intended it to be, so don't worry nothing is wrong with it.”

Kiriko left the conversation

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“NB are you able to give me any info on how to use this ship?”

“If you confirm access permissions to this ship's database, I can download that data right away.”

“Go ahead, start the data transfer.”

Erma lightly toggled a switch while Kiriko said this, “... Wait, what!?” Erma cried.

“What's wrong ...” Kiriko asked as the gigantic monitor plate that was on the ceiling descended loudly and a dandelion of light was projected on it.

“What's going on NB? Is the ship going to go out of control!?”

“No, I don't think so, but I'd like to install the Kamidake's data ...”

“Do it!”

“Jeeze what's going on with that screen, it’s like it's playing a 5 hour movie in 30 seconds ...” A quick flicker of light took about 30 seconds before it finished in the same way as it began. As it booted, system checks were displayed quickly as it verified each system.

“... That's a lot of checks ...” Kiriko said as she watched them.

“Installation and link complete.”

“Really? That was fast.”

“All required programs and data are installed, and hundreds of millions of systems checks and bug checks have been finished ...”

“Are you kidding ... Is this a joke?” Data on that scale was usually time-consuming to process. Kiriko had expected it to take six hours to complete and expected to have to ask Seto for even more help.

“Kiriko, are you OK?” Seina was worried about Kiriko and how she seemed a bit startled.

“... I'm sorry, I'm just amazed at how fast that happened.”

“Well that's just what you should expect from the legendary philosopher.”

“It's a good thing the Kamidake 1's programs and data are compatible with Washu's OS, this should be a piece of cake.”

“Hmm, no doubt that must just be the tip of the iceberg of what this thing can do ...”

“I'm sorry but when will we be departing?” Neiju asked.

“Oh, sorry, we got carried away. We can leave as soon as I do a final check.”

“Oh ... good.”

“Come on, everyone, get to your stations.”

Seina and Amane put their hands on a console panel just as Kiriko did.

“Well then, I'll just sit here.” Neiju touched the remaining console panel without hesitation. Neiju's body was scanned and she sat on a chair that changed to suit her.

“I'll go heeeeere~ ...”

“Please stay off that table for now.”

“What are you talking about, I am an important unit of a ship, aren't I, Master.”

“That tiny egg seems very important ...”

”NB! Shut the fuck up and find somewhere else to stay!”

“Fine, I'll just and float around here.” NB who judged it dangerous to aggravate Kiriko, decided to wonder around the bridge aimlessly.

“The ship has received the instructions successfully, planning phase is done ... completion of plan data confirmed.” Planning a course normally took about an hour. Tens of thousands of plans were presented.

“... What do we do?” Erma looked at Kiriko with a confused face.

“Show the optimal solution!!”

“That's what's being presented right now.” Erma answered.

“Wow, this keeps surprising me.” Kiriko said with a look like she was about to weep.

“Hey, if these are already the best how do we pick the best one?” Amane called out to the calm Kiriko. Checking tens of thousands of plans would take forever.

“Well, uhm ... Uh ... I was ... Uh, Amane let me think! ... Uhm ... Oh! Let's leave it to the Captain ...”

“Oh!”

“Before we leave I should tell you that were not allowed to engage in encounters with Space Pirates.” Neiju said calmly.

“Wait, what?!” Seina stood up.

“You don't have to worry about it, it’s okay, I agreed to this happily.”

“!!” Seina was confused. “Why?”

“It's a secret for now.” Her tone was somewhat grown up, it seemed like Neiju said that like an adult would to a child. Kiriko and the others started to feel a sense of incompatibility in Neiju's youthful appearance which didn't suit her demeanor or the look in her eyes. But Seina seemed fixated on Neiju.

“... Why are you being used as a decoy like this? You're practically the same age as my younger sister ...”

“Don't be so worried about it big brother. I believe in you, you protected Seto's package. You can do anything.” Neiju stared at Seina while smiling cutely while hugging him.

Kiriko had on angry expression and so did the others. “!!!!!!” Their temples began throbbing with anger. Although their expressions remained gentle, their silent rage made the bridge very quiet.

“Well then... Let's do our best to meet your expectations ... Captain, choose a course.” Kiriko said calmly but she looked like she would explode at any minute.

“Oh, yes, right!” Seina quickly concentrated on the mission and picked out a plan.

It was one hour after Seina got into the Kamidake 2 that the final check was completed and they set out for space.

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On the monitor of the Mikagami's bridge, the appearance of the Kamidake going up into the sky of Jurai was reflected.

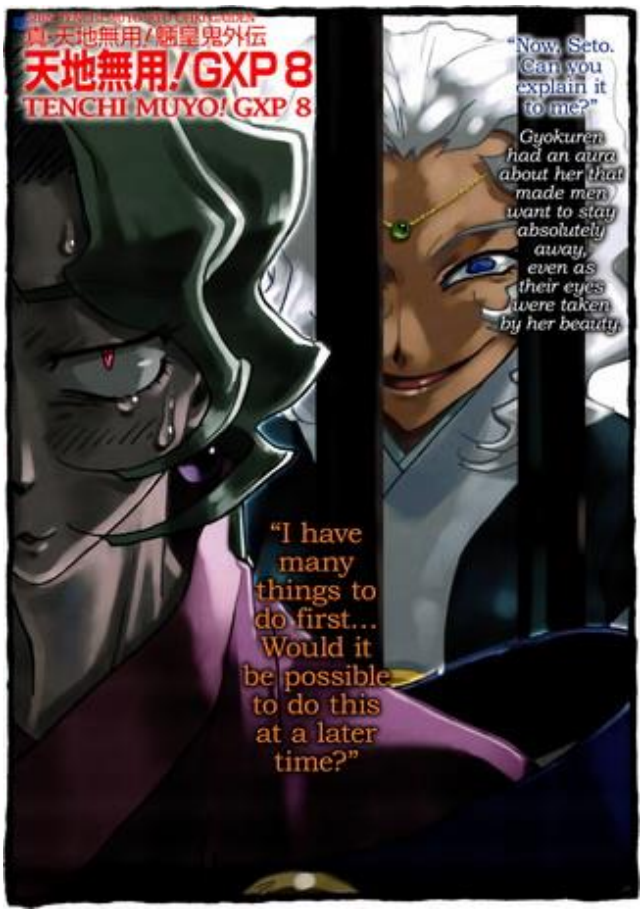
“They've managed to set sail safely.”

“There not by any means safe.” Seto, looked at the monitor with Minaho as Hakuren and her girls stood behind them in a caged off area clawing at the cage.

“I hope they can finish this mission successfully.”

“Will you tell me what's going on?” Hakuren asked.

“... ...”


天地無用!GXP 8
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 8
“Now, Seto. Can you explain it to me?”
Gyokuren had an aura about her that made men want to stay absolutely away, even as their eyes were taken by her beauty.
“I have many things to do first... Would it be possible to do this at a later time?”

”Come on Seto, could please you explain it me!?” Gyokuren begged crazily. Her eyes betrayed her beautiful appearance. She had a dangerous atmosphere about her that one wouldn't want to approach.

“Before I can do that I have something to do ... Can it wait till after that?”

“Is it that complicated? Just tell us!” Karen said surprisingly upset. However Hakuren remained calm looking, as did Suiren who was just not good at making facial expressions.

“Oh ... ~. It's more complicated than you'd even imagine ...” Seto looked back at the four of them while backing up and stopped at Suiren.

“... Why are you focusing on Suiren?” Minaho decided not to get involved, but as she watched the situation, she commented as much as she could without irritating the situation.

“ ... Well, of all of them, I'd be most worried about her because she doesn't have much of a presence, so I'm keeping an eye on her to make sure she's in there.”

“Shouldn't you be more afraid of turning your back on Gyokuren?”

“She has too strong an atmosphere for that, it's easy to detect her movements even without seeing her eh heh heh ...” Seto laughed with a dry voice that had no emotion in it at all.

“Don't you think you should just give them a detailed explanation?”

“There are some errands I'd like to finish before I do that.”

“But you can't go anywhere like this.”

“I'm fine, besides Gyokuren won’t get past this cage ...” Seto's body began to shine as she transferred out.

“You're just going to use a transfer gate to get away? I doubt that will stop Gyokuren chan!” Minaho said as Seto transferred out.

All of Seto's subordinates could easily deduce her destination. However they couldn't do that easily if they couldn't physically access the gate itself.

“Analyze what you can from that transfer! Predict her destination!” Gyokuren ordered the operators as if it were their jobs.

Normally, the Mikagami's resident operators were higher in rank than Gyokuren and would only take commands from Seto, Minaho or the Captain of the Fighter Fleet. Still, they didn't want to end up hurt for opposing Gyokuren in her current state. Not even Seto wanted to go up against her, so really it made sense.

“.....”

But, as expected, they hesitated and turned to look at Minaho for a bit to apologize to her. And then they immediately started working together as if she had given them the sign to go ahead. Knowing the situation, they knew they wouldn't be punished for helping.

“We have thirty-four possible transfer locations!”

“Narrow them down to places she would go!”

“The “Seto Victim Association” is on it! Behavior pattern analysis is in progress. We're considering both her recent and past behavior!”

“Huhuhuhuh, wherever she's gone we will find her!” Although they were her subordinates, there were a few members who didn't think of her as their boss, and this exposed their true nature, really vividly.

Minaho sighed and bowed her head deeply as she watched the happily traitorous operators.

Chapter Three: A Boxed girl?

After leaving the gravitational pull of Jurai, the Kamidake made a short distance jump and materialized outside the Juraian solar system.

“No problem with the jump systems, no abnormalities on the hull.” Erma reported with a dissatisfied tone.

“What's wrong? Is there a problem?” Amane asked her.

“Oh, no, but... It's just too normal, it's surprisingly shocking that everything has gone so smoothly.”

“Well it certainly is much better then what I expected, but ... We haven't tried to make it do anything all that special yet,” she said.

“... Well ... Besides a normal hyper-space jump.” Kiriko had on an expression that made it seem like she wanted to say something.

“What? It's something on your mind?”

“Is something wrong?” Following Amane, Seina also asked the anxious looking Kiriko.

“No, it's nothing Captain, I just think we should still remain on guard in case something actually does go wrong.”

“Well that's true, but this thing's stability in hyper space is amazing, there was almost no friction and it's an ultra-smooth ride.”

“I want to make sure there are no abnormalities on the ship, May I run the diagnostic program?” Kiriko looked toward Seina, who silently nodded.

“Ok, everything checks out fine. Let's jump off to our first destination and officially begin the mission. Captain, please give me directions for our route.”

“Roger that.” Seina set the route.

“Route setting confirmed! Hyperspace jump program loaded!” The Kamidake rushed into hyperspace again.

“No abnormalities so far.”

“I wonder how the residential area is on this ship.”

“I just came back from checking it out for you master.”

“Oh, great! But you were just supposed to be stay on the bridge.”

“Ha ha ha! Thank you for your praise and compliments!” NB laughed happily.

“... You're not being praised.” Seina said with loud voice. But it was equivalent to shouting as far as NB could hear it. But NB kept laughing while staying in a good mood.

“Everything is reading as good again.” Kiriko smiled at Seina which calmed him down.

“Please tell me about the residential area soon.”

“Of course.” NB floated down from the sky to the unit in the center of the table.

“I'll just rest here for a bit.”

When he touched it, “Gahrahahahahahahahahahahahaha!” A flashing discharge came out of the unit, and the NB flew away and fell as white smoke rose from the table.

“Oh, Hey! Are you OK?”

“What, what, what?! What happened! What happened?” NB said in a loud voice that drowned out Seina's worried voice, and NB flew quickly and aimlessly around the bridge.

“Calm down NB.”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Hey, NB!!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” NB flew around. He didn't hear Seina. However……,

“You idiot, I told you not to get on top of there.” Neiju said.

“Why!?” NB stopped moving.

“Do you like it when someone sits on your head?”

“… But, it's different,” NB complained.

“Captain, I've finished checking the status of the residential area.” Erma reported in a cool tone to break the tension.

“Can you brief me on them?”

“Oh wait, Erma wait! Wait a moment, please wait a moment!” NB scratched its butt where the white smoke had come from against the table and accidentally turned off some monitors.

“In this new Kamidake, in addition to the bridge, there are many areas fixed in subspace, some of them are enormous.”

“Ah!”

“NB, let her finish.”

“The residential subspace has room for up to fifty senior officers, and there are twenty Captain class rooms, there's a big cafeteria and more, a large kitchen with a maximum capacity of 1000 people, a large athletic gym and pool, entertainment facilities, and medical facilities the likes of which I have never been seen, they are simply amazing!

“... This is ... Wow ... Amazing ... Is this for real?” Amane exclaimed as she watched the facilities being projected.

“If you ever leave the GP, you can go into the tourism industry with a ship like this.”

“It's also packed with a lot of stuff including tons of necessary supplies, I understand why NB was so eager to talk about it.”

“It's also possible to recycle 80% of the consumable items on board”.

“So it's unlikely our supplies will ever be exhausted, don't you think?”

“We don't want to have a repeat of what happened with Seto's package.”

“That's true.”

Seina had grown accustomed to being given exaggerated gifts like this. But the others were still puzzled by it.

“This ship has so many odd and expensive bells and whistles, it even has an assortment of items and clothes.” Kiriko and Erma stared at Amane in amazement.

“Does it have a catalog?”

What was listed in the catalog was quite fancy, there were no every day or ready to wear kind of items in it. Erma looked stunned. “These must be clothes Washu designed. They’re made in quite an old style... oh what’s this ... Wait ... Is this for real?”

“Erma, what's wrong?”

“These are antiques!” Erma practically slammed her face into the monitor.

“What do you mean?”

“These are really old GP relics, you can find these used on the market at a very high price.”

“How do you know about such things Erma?”

“They're valued collectibles even among the Space Pirates, it's a status symbol to have these incorporated into your ship. Don't forget, I am also Ryoko. I searched for these things when I was building my own ship.”

“Oh, I see. So that's why you know so much.”

“Well they’re pretty old. Almost all of these have been lost in accidents and warfare, the interior decorations aren't ever close to their original form due to aging or breakage ... But these are all originals in new condition.” Erma drooled while looking at the monitor. “That's so much, there are so many ... this alone is a fortune.”

“By the way, these marks indicate the model number ... they say these are the original prototypes.”

“Prototypes?”

“Most items are made even better before they’re put out for mass production, these would be even better then what's on the market, so it's a super rare item!” Erma was about start crying.

“I feel like maybe Washu was just giving us stuff she had in the back of her storage room though.”

“NB, Erma. Let's wrap it up for the night. We need to rest while we can ... Neiju, please choose your room.” Kiriko said as she turned to Neiju.

“If that's the case, I want to sleep with big brother Seina tonight!”

“Eh!?” Seina was dumbfounded, the others all turned their eyes to Neiju all at once.

“Ms. Neiju you're old enough that you can sleep by yourself.”

“I don't want to, what if I have a bad dream, I want to stay close to big brother Seina.”

(Well ... Ms. Neiju is still a kid and I don't think that Seina will do any strange things with her ... but ...!) Kiriko had a hard time figuring out why Neiju made her uncomfortable.”

“It's alright you can stay with me. It's no problem.” Seina said.

“~ ~ ok then, I will guide you two to your room ~~” NB said in a tour operator's voice. They headed upstairs.

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NB opened the gate to the residential area. The aroma of vegetation came drifting from the other side.

“Wow, this place is huge.”

As they came out of the gate, there was a large park in front of them about 100 meters wide. There were houses for the senior officers along the outer circumference of the park, and there was a staircase that led to the Captain class house.

(If there was a world tree in the center, this would look similar to the residential area of the royal ships.) Of course, that was on a completely different scale but Seina was still amazed he had been given such a ship.

“Why don't we walk around before we go to bed?” Neiju asked.

“Sure, I don't mind.”

“Alright!” Neiju began running around the park.

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“What do you think?” With an innocently frolicking Neiju on screen, Kiriko was monitoring Seina from the bridge.

“Looks like she's having fun ...”

“Amane!”

“Hmm ... Well, Melmas is a planet that governs with a shrine maiden, isn't it?”

“Yes, and Neiju Na Melmas is the name of the shrine maiden who has reigned over Melmas for about 500 years.”

“But from what I've heard she never leaves Melmas.”

“Maybe she is a body double, or someone using a pseudonym? I wonder what her purpose here is.”

“You might be right on the body double thing.”

“Whatever's going on she is certainly not an ordinary person. And she is way older then she seems.”

“Wait... Seto is the whole reason she is on board with us. What if she tries something with Seina-chan?” Kiriko looked angry.

“NB will stop her if that happens, right? It still has Ethics provisions installed in it right.”

“Yes ... but they were installed by Airi-sama ...”

× × ×

“Oh, yes, the girl caught a ship with a man named Seina. It left just a while ago.”

A man in a dark room was communicating with someone who was broadcasting anonymously. It was only certain that the man calling wore Juraian clothing.

“... and this is the target video data, is it for real?”

“I shouldn't have to tell you that it is! Send the data quickly!”

“What's the route data?”

“The route has not been set in advance, so I don't know.”

“This is bullshit! I want route data! I paid a high price for this!”

“Hey now, I got this from the Devil Princess of Jurai's server. The data I gave to you is already worth several times what you've given me.”

“Okay! Fine ... But you owe me!”

“I'll let you know if they reach a relay point, otherwise why not run some predictions and try to leak the possible routes to various people to see who finds it for you first.”

“... Hah! I was already planning on that!” The other party disconnected.

At the same time that the other party disconnected, the room got brighter.

“Oh wow, he didn't even notice me back here.” Seto stood behind the man and looked up at the ceiling with a shaky face.

The man transformed back into Kuisu Panta. “The bait has been laid out, let's move on to the next task.”

Kuisu and Seto jumped into the next gate. A few seconds later Gyokuren came into the room behind them.

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“Hehe, ahaha!” As if dancing, Neiju ran through the trees of the park. Then she took off her shoes and went into the creek.

“Neiju-chan! Be careful!!” Seina rushed over to her and nearly stepped on a small animal that jumped out of the bush but he changed the position of his foot trying to avoid it, and as a result he tripped on the moss on the ground and fell head first into the creek.

“Big brother are you OK?”

“Haha, it's okay, I'm used to it.” Seina laughed and got up as Neiju rushed up to him worriedly.

“I'm more surprised that there are things living here.”

“A simple ecosystem must have also been built to maintain this environment, it is amazing.” Neiju said looking around. There were fish jumping out of the creek and small birds and insects flying in the sky. Neiju looked at it silently. Seina remained silent so as not to disturb her, and waited for Neiju to say something.

*** * * Translators’ note: (Wow! I haven't had to do one of these in a while) This chapter’s title is Hakoiri girl.**

----箱入り娘----
or Boxed Girl AKA a Klotski AKA A sliding brick puzzle from:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klotski#Daughter_in_the_box "Daughter in the box" Another Japanese variation uses the names of shogi pieces. The Daughter in the Box (Japanese name: hakoiri musume) wood puzzle depicts an "innocent young girl, who knows nothing of the world" trapped in a building. The largest piece is named "daughter", and other blocks are given names of other family members (like father, mother and so on).

Other definitions from jisho:

1. Girl who has led a sheltered life; pet daughter; naive girl; an ingénue
2. Wooden block puzzle; Daughter in the Box; Klotski

End mandatory note * * *

"Hey big brother." About ten minutes passed before Neiju spoke with her eyes still on the scenery.

"What is it?"

"I am actually a Hakoiri girl (Boxed girl)." 箱入り娘

But Seina understood this to mean "I am actually an innocent young girl, who knows nothing of the world."

"You're still young, isn't being innocent a good thing?"

"No, I mean I am a literal boxed girl."

"……Huh?"

"I am only ever taken out of my box when necessary, to keep me from getting broken or dirty, and then they shove me back into the box so that I won't ever be able to run away ..."

"Neiju chan?"

"Well, even if I say a box it really had about the same amount of room as this space, and there are lots of luxury goods and tributes are given to me regularly ..." Neiju sat down and placed her feet into the stream and kicked the water back and forth gently as she stared at the swaying surface of the water.

“But it's an unnatural way to live ... No one should live like that.” She murmured. Neiju stared at Seina and smiled. And suddenly the air in the residential area was wrapped in silence. It was the same atmosphere he had felt when he had first met Neiju - a mysterious atmosphere as if this space had become a cathedral.

“This time I will finally get out of the box ... I don't care what happens.” Neiju's voice echoed. “So, please defend me ...” she said in a tone that felt like she was giving a speech rather than an order.

“I understand, I will do as much for you as I can.” said Seina, the silence collapsed and the sound came back to the room. The birds flew all at once, the fish struck the surface of the water, as though they were the bells of a cathedral ringing at once.

“!!?” For a moment, a surprised expression came to Neiju's face. But Seina was distracted by the noises and didn't notice it.

“Hey big brother, let's go home soon,” she said when the bustle settled down. Neiju took Seina's hand.

“Is everything alright?”

“Yeah, I've chosen which house I want us to stay in. NB, please show me around.”

“OK. Follow me” NB started to move, Neiju continued to pull Seina.

“Have you never held hands with your siblings?” Neiju looked up at Seina who was acting awkward about her holding his hand as she asked him curiously.

“Oh ... Uhm ... No, I haven't ... Don't you know I'm bad luck?”

“Yeah, I heard from Seto, you have a bias in your probability vector.”

“Well, because I don't want to cause any danger to Yoshiko, I've tried not to get too close to her.”

“I feel sorry for her, it must be awful being unable to play with your older brother.”

“Although I felt bad for her at first ... When she went into kindergarten she made friends in our neighborhood, so she didn't want to play together anyways.”

“Oh Seina, you poor thing.”

“Ha ha. Either way, I wouldn't be interested in playing anything girly that she would want to play, especially since I'm the older one, so it's not that big of a deal, and when we’re at home we still talked normally and she sometimes helped with my injuries or brought something for me to the hospital like a change of clothes ... Even if we could have played, there were many times when I was so injured that I just couldn't move.”

“Big brother, you poor thing.”

“Honestly ...” Not only Neiju but also NB crying a little.

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“We've arrived.” NB announced.

It was a Juraian-like house with a spacious staircase. It was large as expected of a house fit for the Captain, it had a large garden, but no fences. Well, there was a simple fence substitute made only of turf. From the garden, they could see the entire residential area, which was a magnificent view in a different sense from what they saw in the park.

“Well, let's go inside.”

“Yeah, if you don't take a bath soon, you'll catch a cold.”

“Our clothes are dry, we'll be okay ...”

“No, I have mud all over me, so let's go before we eat.” Neiju said as they entered the front door.

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“Gaaaah!”

“Kiriko!” Amane shouted at Kiriko stood up in a panic.

“Calm down, where are you running off too. I thought you were going to sit back and monitor the situation?”

“Well, yes ... but …!!”

“Ms. Kiriko, don't you see that it's obvious she knows we’re watching and is just messing with us? Besides Seina only sees her a sister, so nothing is going to happen ……hopefully.”

“Erma, are you sure Seina isn't into loli's?”

“From what I've gathered he's normal, although it seems rather that he likes girls like his mother, I guess maybe older women too?”

“Erma, the story has derailed.” Amane poked Erma with her elbow. Erma ehemed and continued her explanation.

“... Anyway, Seina is obviously only showing sympathy towards that girl and her circumstances and her desire for protection, there's nothing to worry about.” Amane and Erma went through each fact they could to get Kiriko to calm down.

“That is ... true ... but something is still bothering me ...”

“Kiriko, Seina's self-discipline is an extraordinary thing, think of how nothing has happened with him and us yet ... And Hakuren, especially Gyokuren, his will is solid.”

“Oh yeah! Even when he's seen us naked at the very most he just gets hard and throbby down there.” Erma clasped her fist and emphasized the throbbing with tears in her eyes.

“That's right.”

“What is “that's right” supposed to mean, Amane! Half those times were because you just got careless and did things like bend over the sofa in nothing but a tank top and daisy dukes!”

“Ah ~ ~ ~, well ..., yes ... but I'm more careful about that now.” Amane said.

“Fine... for now I'll leave NB to guard them... you're right, she looks like a child no matter how old she is. What she can do is limited.”

“That ... That's right.”

“No matter what, there are just some things she can't do.”

“What are you planning?”

“We won't do anything ... Except get careless.” Erma and Amane laughed at Kiriko's suggestion.

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After going through several transfer gates, Seto and Kuisu came to the Kamiki family's dedicated space port. There was a very small compact spacecraft anchored there. General Balta was standing with several guests before the ramp.

“Oh Seto, did you come to see me off?”

“I'm sorry we had to keep it such a secret this time, next time I will make sure you are treated as a national guest.”

“No, it's fine. I don't do well with flashy displays anyways.”

“I can appreciate that.”

“Well then, thank you for your hospitality ♡” He said and Seto ran off with Kuisu just as quickly as she had come. “What's their rush ...!?” For a moment, Commander Balta tilted his head, but he noticed the reason by seeing the group of girls who followed Seto.

When Gyokuren came before Commander Balta, she folded her knees and bowed deeply. “King Balta, please forgive me for being rude.”

“Oh, no, it's ok. Thanks to you I'll be getting home much earlier.”

“Thank you very much! Excuse me!” Gyokuren said shortly, and then she ran after Seto.

Balta's laughter echoed as if to follow Seto.

“God damn it. I hoped that he would have slowed them down more.” Seto, who heard Balta's laughter said.

“Those who see Gyokuren's face know the fear of God ... Although that is only because they don't want to end up dead.”

“I think I made a miscalculation ... I thought they would have calmed down and given up by now but ...”

“Miscalculation ... that's for sure, we better hurry up or they’ll catch us ...”

“If I were you I would be pleased with the tenacity of my subordinates. I think the only real problem we have is Gyokuren-chan, the rest will tire out if we run long enough ...”

“No matter how much we run, she won't tire.”

“... Did you hear that in a report from Renza?”

“The people there familiar with her know ... It seems that there is quite a famous story she is involved in about it. I'll show you the detailed report later, but she has been described as being venomous.”

“... Ho ho, just like Widow. Do you think Seina's bad luck is causing him to attract such troublesome women?”

“If you think about her past, it could be said that she has become much calmer since meeting him... Are you sure she won't back down?”

“I'll leave the testing of that theory to someone else!”

“What ... do you mean me?”

“... Or we could finish this quickly and run into the cage on Mikagami's Bridge!”

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At the high level quarantine research facility under the jurisdiction of Jurai, the dismantling and investigation of the former Kamidake had just finished.

“I came to bring dinner ...” Tennyo said. She came out of the transfer gate with a cheerful expression until she noticed that Airi wasn't there. All of the surveys were done by automatic programs, so it was okay that she wasn't on-site but...

“I wonder if she's found something more interesting to watch ...” Hakuryo pointed to the stairs.

“Hee hee hee.” At that time, an eerie laugh, reminiscent of a witch in a fairy tale, came from downstairs. They went down to find Airi with an eyeglass-style monitor, sitting on a chair with her legs in the air.

“I can see your panties are down.”

“Are you excited?”

“I'm more excited to beat the snot out of you. Pull them up.” Tennyo said. “Airi are you peeping in on NB again? Kirche has been complaining about that a lot to me lately.”

“That's why NB is there! Don't interrupt my viewing pleasure.”

“Wow ... I feel bad for Seina, someone should teach him that it's dangerous to get things for free from philosophy masters.” Tennyo muttered while looking away.

* * * **Translators’ note: Yes. They’re implying that Airi is finger blasting herself while watching Seina bathe. * * ***

“I heard from my daughter, that Seto-sama is being chased by Gyokuren-chan, and her officers are also backing her up.” A shield was stretched around Airi, so she couldn't be touched.

“Wow ... And I thought my workplace environment was bad.”

However, Airi rotated her chair curiously and turned her back on them.

“Don't you want to participate?”

“It'll be over soon anyway, even if we go now, it will be over so quick that it won’t be much fun ... But I know something that is much more fun ♡.”

“That is not fun ... Please stop doing such strange things. If you don't, I'll make sure what's happening to Seto happens to you tomorrow.”

“Aww. Now, now, don't be like that. Let's make a bet. I wonder if Seina going to do anything while he shares a bath with Neiju or not.” Airi said with a devious grin.

“I don't know what you’re expecting to happen ... Seina thinks she's a little girl and has no such inclinations to do anything with her ...”

“You say that, but Seina's defense instincts seem to notice that she is a woman ... Ahahaha this is great.”

“Eh!?” Tennyo ran off in a panic and accessed NB. But since Airi had control over it, she instead headed to the area of its memory where Kirche's house was stored.

“There are so many houses here ...”

In the virtual space, a huge forest spread around Kirche's house, and many houses were built in the area. The houses stored people synced with the world like how Seina was stored at Tennyo's when he slept. The houses were for researchers who were there to study Seina's probability bias, and occasionally those who were interested in studying Kirche. Naturally, they were all people who Airi and Seto permitted to be there. And sometimes their demands decided the behavior of NB. That was one of the reasons for NB eccentricity.

“Kirche!”

Kirche was standing at the entrance as if waiting for Tennyo. “Please Ms. Tennyo do something.”

“I am sorry, I saw ... I was worried so I came here.”

“I'm a bit worried too.” Tennyo entered the living room, there was a guest there.

“Oh Raireza! Hiroshi?”

“Oh, it seems you already know them, well then, sit down.”

Tennyo and Kirche sank down in front of Raireza and looked at the visual feed from NB which was being displayed on a large television. Seina was in a Juraian style bathroom with Neiju and they were talking in the bathtub.

“Well, I don't see anything dubious happening right now.”

“Why are you two here?”

“We came to work on Miki's investigation ...”

“I don't get it ... She’s just a young girl. Why is everyone expecting something questionable to happen?” Raireza asked. Kirche turned red.

“Well, you see, if Neiju is an ordinary girl, there's no need to worry.” Hiroshi said.

“Why don't you check on his psychological condition instead of spying on him through the screen? You should find his subconscious sleeping in the bedroom.”

“What!?” The data body linked to Seina's deep psyche appeared only when it was dormant.

“Ms. Kirche is too embarrassed to look and it's really just not my place to check on such a thing.”

“Hmm yes ... I can see why you might feel that way.”

“But he's like your little brother.” Raireza had a smile on her face as she looked at Kirche in a way that asked her to do it.

”Fine ... If that is the case, I'll investigate.” Tennyo stood up quickly, and went towards the room with Seina's data body, Kirche insecurely kept looking at the TV screen where Neiju was washing Seina's back.

Ten more minutes later, when Tennyo came out from the room with a smiling face, “Everything's alright.” She said nodding.

Kirche was relieved.

“You're worrying too hard about Seina.”

Tears of sympathy appeared in Hiroshi's eyes. He felt bad for the various disasters that befell Seina.

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Seina had gotten out of the bath and changed into pajamas. “Well then, it's time to eat. NB, what's available from this ships cooking system?”

“The kitchen is expansive, you can cook by yourself or you can have the cooking system do it for you, and of course there are plenty of ingredients stocked.”

“Ok, try accessing the cooking system.”

“Yes.” NB accessed the Kamidake's central cooking system and displayed a menu.

“Wow! This list is huge.”

“... It's amazing, isn't it?” Seina and Neiju were surprised by the menu.

“They have popular entrees from all the planets of the Galactic Federation, I wonder how accurately they are able to be made though, but ... I don't mind eating a lost recipe ...”

“Lost recipe?”

“That's the best way I can phrase it. Long ago when the Galactic Federation was made, people came from the various planets to the academy, and with it, their recipes, but not always the ingredients, so a lost recipe is when you use substitute ingredients.”

“Oh, I see ... So a dish that mimics the original by reproducing similar tastes and textures with substitutes.”

“Also, sometimes the ingredients just stop existing, so that can cause it to.”

“Don't they have advanced synthesis techniques at the academy though?”

“There are times when replication is amateurish at best. The place of origin can change the taste as can the season, the harvest time, and ripening conditions. They would have to acquire those samples and analyze them ... It's just not realistic or cost effective ... And to make them would cost most people’s monthly salary just for a serving, synthetic things aren't always cheap.”

“So some of these aren't going to be the real thing? You're saying it might be a substitute?”

“Even if it is the same it could be different! The same crop, maybe but grown in the wrong environment, could make it drastically different, the shape and size could be off, the more you eat synthetic items, the more you'll notice the unnaturalness and it will become really, really noticeable once you get more Bio-Enhancement ... unfortunately, sometimes it just has to do.”

“I see …”

“Although there is an upside ... The Academy is the Academy ... There's been a long ongoing competition to make the best variations on regional dishes using substitute items you can get from anywhere. A sort of generalized re-importing of dishes. A lot of them have become staples and are served on most GP ships.”

“I guess it's tough to maintain a unique menu where there are limited supplies on board.”

“But it's important to make the distinction because sometimes the substitute version loses the originals essence ...”

“Well, I guess we will just have to try a dish and see ... where should we start?”

“Oh look, you can sort by taste and there's recommendations based on previous orders ...” Neiju noticed a certain menu grouping. “Oh look, there is a menu of food from Melmas ...” Some of them were Neiju's favorite dishes.

“The inside of my box is cramped but the food is a different story ... Hey brother ... If you don't know what to pick how about you try the same thing I have.” Neiju said and then ordered without waiting for Seina's answer.

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“So do you like it? I customized the ingredients myself ...” Neiju looked anxiously at Seina. Some of her choices were very different than the general tastes of the Academy.

“Yes, it's delicious, actually it resembles a food we have on Earth.”

What Neiju ordered was exactly like the Earth's curry.

“Actually since I came to space, I have searched for various things like this but I wasn't able to find it ... Usually Kiriko had the roux imported from the earth and would make it for me in secret as a surprise, but it's nice to know they have it here.”

Besides that ... Kiriko's curry was somewhat unreliable. When she made it no one would never finish it off. Incidentally, her Hayashi Rice making skills were much better.

*** * * Translators’ note: from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayashi_rice**

“Hashed beef rice or Hayashi rice (ハヤシライス) is a dish popular in Japan as a Western-style dish (yōshoku). It usually contains beef, onions, and button mushrooms, in a thick demi-glace sauce which often contains red wine and tomato sauce. This sauce is served atop or alongside steamed rice. The sauce is sometimes topped with a drizzle of fresh cream.” * * *

“Really? I'm glad.” Neiju smiled. It made her happy to know it was similar to his native diet.

“So Neiju-chan, how does it compare to how it's supposed to taste?”

“About half of the ingredients and spices had to be substituted, but I was amazed at how good it is. Actually I like it this way! There's more room for variation ♡”

“No way, so how is it supposed to taste ...”

“At first it's sweet and then it’s supposed to feels very spicy ...”

“I see ... It was just mild in the middle.”

“I'm sure I can adjust it to make it spicier.”

“Well, I've never had a fun time with hot spices ... Shall we enter the acceleration space soon?”

“... Hey big brother ... Can we go to sleep together tonight?” Neiju said a bit embarrassed.

“Yeah, that's fine.” After crossing the hurdle of taking a bath together his fear of Neiju was gone. Already Neiju had become like a sister to him.

“NB, where is the acceleration space room?”

“If you like, it can be anywhere. It seems like it can be applied to the entire residential area.”

“I don't need you to do that, for the time being, can you just set it to the whole house?”

“Roger that.”

The space became an accelerated space which only caused slight discomfort.

“Why the whole house, why not just the bedroom?”

“Sorry, but I have to study for a little bit before going to bed, are you okay with playing on your own for a bit?”

“Studying?”

“Well because of some extenuating circumstances I am a bit behind my other classmates in the curriculum.”

“Oh I see, that's fine, just let me know when you’re ready to take a break.”

“OK.” Seina took NB and put up a secret wall, Neiju began watching a video.

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“Oh! Big brother, are you done?”

Seina dissolved the secret wall, it was about three hours later in the accelerated space. Neiju, who had already changed into her sleepwear, came jumping off the sofa as if she had just been watching the wall.

“I need to change into my sleepwear so wait a minute.”

“Ok, I'll head off to the bedroom first.” Neiju headed to the bedroom. That reminded him of Ryo-Ohki who he had shared a bed with the other day.

“I'll must protect her no matter what.” Seina resolved as he headed for the washroom.

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Chapter Four: Fuku · Birth

Everyone was on the bridge after resting, ready to do a jump.

“... Five, four, three, two ... Jumping out. We've returned to normal space. I don't have coordinate confirmation, planned position error.”

“No problem with both the hull and systems!”

“I'm reading something in the wide area radar! Shape is model D099. It's not in the ship registry, but it's probably a reconnaissance ship. It hasn't noticed us yet.”

“We can detect things pretty fast, but they can't ... However, they will notice us soon ... Captain!”

“I set a new route, urgent jump!”

“The other party has noticed us!”

“Twenty more ships have jumped out! ... Jumping in ten, nine ...”

“Three, two ... Jump out!”

The Kamidake jumped back out into normal space where Space Pirates were waiting to ambush them as expected.

The pirates launched bombs at them but it hardly did anything besides making the ship shake.

Crack! Crack!

Cracks began to form on the spherical unit in the center of the table, and something like steam squirted from it.

“Ship control is down 3%!”

“The enemy ship is attacking use from the front!” A ship jumped out to attack the Kamidake. Amane, who was distracted by the cracking unit, made a sharp turn to avoid it.

Crack! Crack!

“Control rate down 8% more! Amane!”

“I know!”

“Kiriko, ready the escape pods! Neiju, move quickly!”

“Brother what's going on!?” Neiju's puzzled tone was natural. They couldn't believe they were going to have to abandon their newly built ship made by Hakubi Washu, and it contents too - a mountain of treasure.

“Kiriko, please!”

“Captain!”?

Seina's sense of smell for crisis was usually reliable. Kiriko hesitated for a moment.

“Roger that!”

Kiriko took Neiju's hand and went to the gate that contained the escape pods. But the gate suddenly disappeared.

“We've lost the subspace link! The Bridge is in quarantine! Communication is impossible! The Control system is barely functioning!!”

“I feel like I have something to do with this somehow.”

“... Don't say such a thing ... Washu-sama built this ship!”

“I guess my bad luck surpasses even the greatest genius.”

“Onii-chan, it will be ok, surely these old ladies will do something to save us.”

“Don't call us old ladies you loli skank!”

“You shouldn't say such rude things you'll get wrinkles! Old lady!”

“Don't fight! NB look for an access point!”

“On it now!”

“More enemies are coming!”

“.....”

Crack! Crack! The crack of the unit was getting bigger.

“Something is jumping out!”

“Damn it! I can't dodge it like this!”

The pirate ship came out by the ship and shot it with paint bullets.

“Paint bullets! Ahh!!” Erma reported and then all the monitors on the ship went out.

Steeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee~~~...

Everyone was silent, as steam came out of the unit.

“Neiju-chan ... I'm sorry ... But it seems that I can't protect you ...” At that time Seina tried to look towards Neiju …

Crack! Crack!

Suddenly, something long and shaggy began to come out of the crack in the unit.

“Well!”

The unit shook and then fell off the table. Everyone reached out for it reflectively but no one caught it.

“!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Everyone got down bracing for an explosion but one never came. Instead they heard “Mi ... Mia ...” A weak cry.

“... What is that?” Seina looked up and saw a thing in the egg that looked like Ryo-Ohki, only a little smaller, he looked up at it.

“Miah!” A flood of light engulfed the bridge. Something came up on the monitors.

(Th-This is!?) Kiriko was familiar with the installed software group. It was similar to what was used on Mikagami's bridge. However, the version that was onscreen was newer than the one used by Seto.

Although its installation was still ongoing, the navigation software began running again and it showed what was going on outside. Many other ships had surrounded them and they were all charging to fire at the ship.

“Everyone prepare for impact!” Kiriko warned, everyone clung nearby chairs. However, the impact wasn't felt at all.

“Mi! Miaaaaa Ann!!” At that moment the hull responded instantly to the cry of the little cabbit. A heavy low vibration noise occurred, the red paint adhering to the hull exterior flew off instantly. The energy twisted enemy attacks around the hull.

“Myaaaaaaaaa!!” The ship moved so fast away that the bridge that should have been fixed in subspace, shook. Even though most of it was absorbed by inertia control, it felt like a magnitude 8 earthquake. The ship disappeared to the pirates.

(We just teleported! I've only heard of royal tree ships doing this with their exteriors blown off!!)

Kamidake quickly withdrew from the battle zone and went into hyperspace.

“What is this ...?” Erma asked. Outside was wrapped in light different from ordinary hyper space.

“This is a special type of hyperspace used for communication ... Only the royal ships can pass in here by ship.” Kiriko replied.

“Only royal ships?? But!?”

“It's almost never used unless the royal ship is incognito. There are various problems that would pop up if it was known to the outside world ...”

The extraordinary capabilities of the 'royal ships' were a terrible thing in the eyes of other countries. So various “behavioral restrictions” were placed upon them.

“Ms. Neiju.” Kiriko was concerned about Neiju saying anything.

“I was already shown it aboard the Mikagami.” Neiju briefly said. She smiled at Kiriko to put her fears to rest. Kiriko responded with a small nod.

“This is going to sound weird ... but there are new sub spaces that have been added ...” Amane said.

Four living spaces had been added to the ship. A field in spring, a summer ocean, an autumn mountain range, and a winter mountain range.

“This new Navigation system software is amazing. It's better than Airi's.” Erma said.

“It seems like this little one hatching has given us new software.” They looked at the little creature.

“Mya, mi, mia ~ ~ ~” It was still struggling to get out of the egg shell.

“Don't worry little one.” However, it didn't listen to Neiju and began to shake it heads and legs and began rolling.

”Mramya! Miaaaa.”

Neiju caught it. The cabbit began looking around for something.

“Mya!”

Its line of sight stopped at Seina, and it began to cry.

“Oh, I see little one, you know who your husband is ... Hey brother. Will you help this child out?”

“Oh, yes.” Seina softly lifted the egg.

“Mia! Miah! Mia!” The cabbit pleasantly shook her tail that protruded from the eggshell as much as she could.

“Ha ha ha ... Don't worry we will get you out soon.” Seina put his hands on the shell of the egg but it wouldn't crack.

“What's wrong, Onii-chan?”

“This shell, it’s really hard ...” Seina's face flushed and sweat dripped down his forehead, his fingers became pure white with pressure and trembled as he tried to get the shell to crack. The power of Bio-Enhancement gave Seina a grip strong enough to crush rocks, but with all that power being used on the shell, the egg did not budge even slightly.

“Please allow me.” NB approached the little one and thrust a flexible manipulator inside the shell.

“Seriously!” Amane said when the cabbit let out a strange groaning voice and kicked NB with her feet.

NB was swiftly blown away and was beaten against a large screen wall.

“What are you doing dummy, this is a little animal!”

“Why are you trying to put strange things in it?”

“I'm not, I put in a laser cutter! I thought that it would hurt the thing's body if we cracked it from the outside, but this ungrateful little animal wouldn't let me!”

“Calm down little one, were trying to help you, be patient with a little while longer.” Neiju gently stroked the head of the child. As if understanding her she withdrew her legs.

“NB, what's the situation inside the shell.”

“... The eggshell has an energy repelling substance to keep it from being opened by an ultrasonic cutter, but there are already some cracks in the shell so maybe you could use a hammer or something like that.”

“Is there such a thing on this ship?”

“Oh! What about this?” Amane grasped NB firmly while smiling faintly.

“Ahhh, what are you doing with me!?”

“Captain, please lend me that child for a moment.”

Seina put the egg on the table and Amane began to bash it with NB.

“Waaa! Waaa! No! No! Stop, stop, Amane~~!!” It screamed.

Kin! Kin! Kin! Metal sounds reverberated on the bridge.

Kin! Kin! Kin! Kin! Kin! Kin!

“Stop it! Stop it! Stop ~~~

“Miyaaaa ♡” Seina hugged the creature and rubbed its head.

“Yay, we did it. The little one is out! ... But we can't just call her little one forever, big brother give her a name.”

“Why me?”

“Because you’re her master, isn't that right little one?”

“Myaaa!”

“Well the name of the ship is “Kamidake.” What about giving her the same name?”

“That's just confusing.”

“Hmm ... Then let me think of something.”

“Well first of all ...” NB suddenly interrupted and poked at the cabbit's crotch.

“Migyatt!!” The little one kicked NB with its foot. NB was strongly slammed into the floor, it was surprising such force came from such a small body. NB then bounced back up almost to the ceiling. After a long time in the air, NB came down to the floor.

“NB ... What the hell, are you doing?!”

“If you name it you need to know whether it's male or the female! ... By the way it's a girl so name it something cute.”

“Hmm ... How about ... Fuku.”

* * * **Translators’ note:**
福, Fuku, good luck * * *

“Yeah, that's a good name, Fuku-chan ... Your name is Fuku.” Neiju stroked Fuku gently. Fuku looked happy as she looked away from Neiju towards Seina.

“... Alright then ... Fuku. Your name is Fuku.” Seina gazed at Fuku and called her name.

“... Mya! Mia!” She smiled as if she understood that it was her name.

“Mia! Mia!”

“Oh ...!” However, Amane disrupted the happy atmosphere because she notice a serious problem the others hadn't.

“What?”

“... Well, where exactly have we been flying to the past few minutes?”

Everyone suddenly realized what she had said.

“Oh no, we forgot!!” Kiriko sat in the operator's seat and quickly checked their route.

“Ayaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” Kiriko screamed loudly.

“What! What's up!?”

“We're way off course!”

“Well, that's expected ... The guidance system changed quite a while ago.”

“It's not a joke! If we do something wrong, there's a possibility that we won't be able to apply for ship registration!”

There was a possibility that there would be trouble caused by rewriting the previous course plan when the application form arrived at a government office and was accepted.

“This is bad ... hopefully they see it as a double application, if it is not registered right, they may treat us as a suspicious ship as soon we leave hyperspace!”

“Ah, that's bad, if we come across a surveillance ship we'll get attacked if we’re not careful.”

They would be able to fly in Juraian airspace normally but the ship wasn't registered yet and they could also possibly jump out into the space of another country.

“Kiriko-san, I have received a reply on the ship's application.”

“Wow! ... Really?”

“Yes, there's no reason to worry.”

“Oh.” Kiriko stared at the document and breathed a big sigh of relief before she started entering the ship's registration code into the proper area of the OS.

It was about a year after that that Kiriko regretted that she didn't reconfirm the accepted application.

* * * **Translators’ note: I don't know for sure, but I'm assuming this refers to GXP 12 when the GP Army takes the ship. She didn't have time to look over or negotiate any of the fine print in the terms of registration... if it's not that this is something that has yet to come up in the Renza ark. * * ***

“Ship registration complete.”

“System Checks are also completed.”

“Captain, I've completed all the checks, so it's time to jump out. Please have Fuku come back to the table.” Kiriko told Seina who was playing with Fuku.

“Okay then, Neiju please take Fuku back to the table.” Seina handed her Fuku, he went to the captain's seat.

“Just to be safe, everyone please take cover in case there's a shock when we exit hyperspace.”

Kiriko’s and everyone's chair was covered with an inertia dampening field.

“... Nine, eight, seven ...” As she counted down, everyone's face grew nervous except for Fuku who was in a good mood and not nervous.

“Jumping out! We've gone back into normal space.”

“... Really, that was a lot smoother than usual?”

“Everything is reading green, there are no abnormalities.”

However, an accident happened when they switched from autopilot to manual. The ship suddenly began to deviate from the course.

“What's going on!?”

Even though Amane did various things, it became impossible for her to control the ship. And that that was not limited to just maneuvering.

“The OS is also acting abnormal! Access rates have suddenly decreased!”

“All weapon controls are cut! Controls are limited to minimal operation!” Amane's decision was quick. She kept power to the minimum necessary systems and cut off all the others.

“The operating system has returned to normal!”

“Erma, see if we can regain control by downgrading!”

“Roger that!” Following Amane, Kiriko and Erma started working on downgrading the systems. Seina, who couldn't do anything, sat and watched them work.

“Miah, Mia!” Fuku went towards Seina and looked up at him.

“Brother!” Neiju who was watching Seina and Fuku called him.

“Eh?” Seina looked towards Neiju, and noticed her gaze was pointed at Fuku. And instantaneously, he saw what she wanted to say. Seina picked up Fuku with both hands, and approached the table in the center.

“Ahh, the access rate is rising!”

“No way!?” Kiriko who saw Erma's report and Seina's action's noticed the cause of this abnormality. And, as expected, when Seina took Fuku to the position where the egg unit was, the access value went to its highest value.

“In other words, if Fuku isn't on the table, it's not possible to control the ship properly?”

“No. it's not just that. We were controlling the ship fine at one point even when she wasn't on it.”

“Well then, why?”

“Hmm, well, Fuku is just a newborn baby.” Neiju said confidently, so Kiriko tilted her head.

“I see, so perhaps she is not familiar with how to access the systems.”

“Then we should keep her on the table during the mission right?”

“But we can't just keep her there 24/7.”

“Then we will have to make use of the acceleration space somehow, with that we should be able to maintain a decent performance as long she stays in the center of the table.”

“Amane ... I don't think that's what Neiju meant. I'm sorry, could you please keep Fuku-chan from moving from the center for a bit?”

“Okay, I got her.” Neiju understood Erma's intentions and grabbed Fuku.

“Seina, can you move away a bit from Fuku-chan?”

“Yes,” Seina took a short step back from Fuku, as told.

“Aamyaa, miya!” Fuku flapped her hands and feet to chase Seina. The access value began to fall slowly.

“Seina, can you turn and look away?”

“Mia! Miah! Mia!” As Seina diverted his line of sight, Fuku instantly gave an uneasy cry. And the access value showed a sharp drop.

“It's alright. I'm sorry, Fuku-chan.” Neiju hugged and gently stroked Fuku who licked her hand as if she was relieved.

“Even if she stays in the center, the access values go up and down.”

“So you’re saying it depends on how tense Fuku gets ...”

“Perhaps it might be better to say “degree of concentration,” rather than saying that.”

Kiriko watched Fuku walking back and forth between Seina and Neiju. Smiling, a puzzled look emerged in her eyes. (I see ... This is going to be a tough job.) She began rechecking the systems.

Chapter Five: Fuku · Vacation in the Ship

Dodo doodo doodo doodo doodododoku, gang! Doggu! Gan! Gying ooot! Dogogguaaaaaaan!!

.....

It was a sound that could not be regarded as a thing of this world. It was a sound that could cause a heart attack in a weak heated person.

Seto and Kuisu's hair was disturbed, they were sweating like a waterfall, and their outfits were dirty and torn in some places. They ran onto Mikagami's bridge with desperate expressions on their faces. Their subordinates had never seen them in such a state before. No one laughed at the situation because shortly behind them Gyokuren came in chasing them like a demon.

"Wow ~~~" Misaki exclaimed. She had heard what was going on with her mother and came aboard snooping.

"Big sister, I'm scared of Gyokuren~" She clung to Funaho who was also dismayed.

Seto and Kuisu unlocked the cage that was left on the bridge of the Mikagami and jumped into it. It was a close call as they closed the cage. Gyokuren who came rushing in collided with the cage making a terrible sound and finally stopped. She thrust her hand in between the bar and stopped just a few centimeters in front of Seto.

Gyokuren who was staring at Seto's face breathed a heavy breath and then began crying tears before going back to her original self.

"Oh, sorry ..." With a wry smile her spirit became cold. Seto and Kuisu's legs grew weak and they collapsed to sit down on the floor.

"I think I peed myself a bit."

"Me too ... That last face was the scariest thing I've ever seen ..."

"It's been a long time since I've seen such a scary face."

"This is different from Ringo-chan's, she would also be scared by that face."

"Yes, well, unlike her, Gyokuren-chan's face meant my life was in danger."

"Oh Seto-sama, if you don't think Ringo chan's face is every bit as serious then you're a fool." The two talked to each other as they panted.

"Well, could you tell me the reason soon?" At that time, Gyokuren had completely returned to her usual state.

"Yes, obviously!" Seto and Kuisu nodded so fast it looked like a hummingbird flapping.

Minaho relieved, gave a signal to the operators. The operators started working normally as quietly as possible.

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The Kamidake arrived at a large freshwater lake on a planet designated as a relay point just about that time.

“Miah, Mia!”

Fuku was hugged by Neiju, she was happy, she liked the place. In contrast, however, Amane and Kiriko were staring at data from the ship and were consulting each other seriously about it.

“So with Fuku on the ship this is its lowest output value?”

“Yes, but even with that we should be able to mange to travel just fine somehow, but if we get caught up in battle we're defenseless.” Kiriko said before she noticed NB coming up to her with smoke coming out of it.

“I don't know why she hurt me I was just trying to determine her gender.”

“Shut up you useless piece of junk.” Amane said.

“We’re in this mess because of that creature not because of me!” it complained. Kiriko tried to use NB as a control relay, but Fuku had kept violently rejecting it.

“Well, we would be done here already if you hadn't gone poking her like a maniac.”

“Mmmhmmm,” Kiriko and Erma nodded deeply.

“NB, I'm going to need you to quit complaining. I have another job for you to do now.”

“Another job?”

“Well I've isolated the navigation, weapons control, and sensors data from the Kamidake, I need you to process the data. It will save us lots of time.”

“You're the next most powerful computer here after the ship, it's the best thing you can do right now.”

Neiju came up to them. “Hey do you need big brother to help you with all this work you’re doing?”

“No, we can do all this on our own … Why?”

“I want him to play with Fuku-chan.” Neiju smiled.

“Sure, go ahead.”

“Oh good. Come on big brother, let's go!”

“Where are we going?”

“I found a fun new subspace area. It would be a shame if we didn't use it. It's a beach area, Fuku-chan seems to like water.”

“Mia!” Fuku meowed as if to agree with Neiju.

“Well then, I'm going, if you need me just let me know.” Seina bowed to Kiriko and headed to the transfer gate with Neiju.

“A beach ... I sense an opportunity!” Amane smiled.

“What's wrong?”

“Let's get this finished quickly, we are going to take little break afterwards”

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In the Kamidake's four seasonal spaces, different topographies were formed respectively.

Spring was a place centered on flat land, summer was the place where the islands were dotted around the sea, and autumn was a gentle hill and plateau area, mountains centered on alpine highlands in winter.

But in each space, the seasons were not fixed, each one had a yearly cycle and seasonal changes. And although each zone was divided, each zone had continuity with each other creating a looping space. With no artificial assistance, and the environment could be self-maintained. There was a food chain to suit the topography and environment of each.

“... The shape is different, but this place still reminds me of a royal ship ...” Seina looked up at the sky.

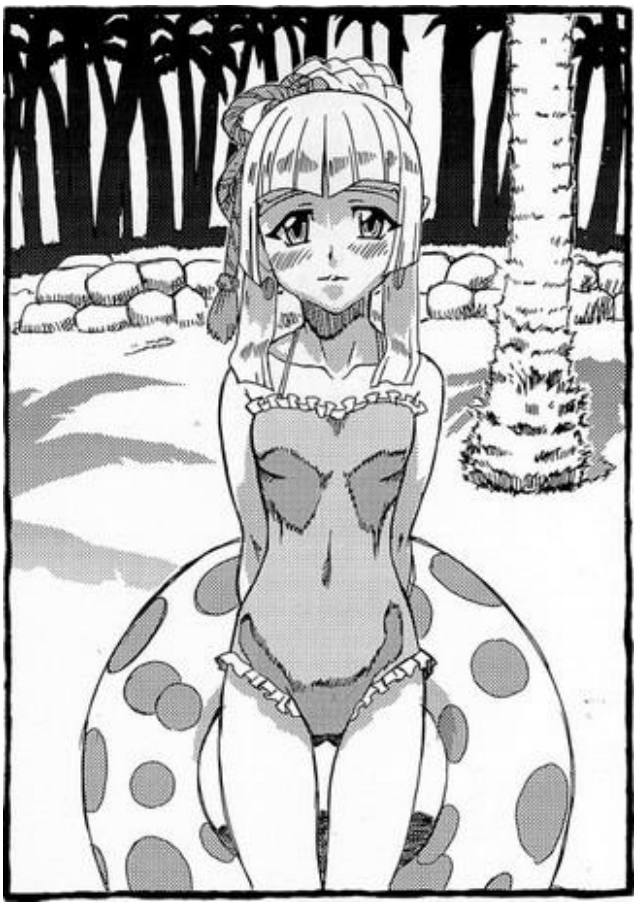
The four spaces were compressed like plates against each other and were arranged like a quadrangular prism mirror, so in the sky, three spaces were visible, thin enough to blend into the blue sky.

“This is a nice view ...” Seina seemed to be sucked into the scenery for a moment there, they were on a sandy beach on an island about 10 meters away from a forest.

A Sports bag, large beach umbrellas, and swimsuits and were on the beach, the sports bags had various necessities in cooler boxes, beach balls and other toys including inflatable flotation rings.

Neiju went to change and came back with her hair bundled up and a pink swimsuit on. “So, do you like it?”

It reminded Seina of when he was younger and Yoshiko had come to him to show him a new outfit she had bought. But when she came near him, a stone got kicked up by a nearby car and hit Seina in the head causing blood to spew profusely all over Yoshiko's new outfit.



Of course, she was more worried about the fact that Seina was bleeding out then her outfit and she didn't blame him for it but after that she never came to show Seina anything ever again. Seina had regretted that he had lost the opportunity to ever tell his sister he liked something new she got ever again.

“Yeah, it suits you.” Seina kindly said that while carefully looking around. When he saw Neiju's bright and cheerful expression he forgot that feeling of regret.

“Let's go!” Neiju ran towards the edge of the beach.

Seina stood up holding Fuku with one hand to go with her.

“Come on, brother!”

The sight seemed to Seina like the brother sister relationship he could have had with his sister if he hadn't had such bad luck. Seina followed her to the edge of the beach and gently dropped Fuku.

Neiju gazed at Fuku, chasing after the waves.

“Myan. Myan. Miya!!”

At that time, Fuku got caught up in a wave that suddenly came from nowhere. Fuku was thrown and ended up half buried in the sand and she struggled to get herself out after the wave receded.

“Fuku, are you OK?” Fuku pulled her face out of the sand and cried gladly.

“Mia! Miah! Mia!” Fuku got up, found a wave and did it again.

“Hey, Fuku ... Don't you think that is a little dangerous?”

“By the way, does Fuku-chan breathe?”

“Oh ... Hmm, well, Fuku is a spaceship.” Seina hastily searched the manual.

“This manual seems like it only explains the facility ...” Seina was searching for a variety of terms, but got no results.

“Try checking the “Frequently Asked Questions” section big brother.”

“Frequently Asked Questions ... Here it is ... But this ship is not mass-produced so how can it be frequently asked? ... Oh, there!”

“I knew it.” Neiju raised a proud smile.

“Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhm.....”

There were only a few lines on Fuku, ——please don't eat it, you don't have to feed it, it doesn't have to breathe, and it should be fine if you expose it to nuclear radiation under normal conditions! And if it's put in zero degree temperatures or on the surface of the sun, well it is a weapon, so I think ... well … what do you think?

“... What should I think?”

“In other words, it shouldn't matter if you get it little roughed up, it's a weapon, isn't it?”

“That's a terribly odd explanation isn't it?”

“Well, Washu is a famous person partially, but she was also a terribly weird person.”

“I've heard things from people at the academy, but ...”

“For now, if Fuku is having fun, she should be fine.”

“Nya myan Miaa!!”

A fish launched at the beach, Fuku ran to bat at it when …

“Seina, over here.”

“What? Amane ...” Suddenly, Amane's voice was heard, Seina turned and stiffened up.

Amane, Erma, and Kiriko were in revealing bathing suits in the hot sun. Amane posed a little as if to show off her assets.

Indeed, Amane, the former top model, knew how to pose. As opposed to Gyokuren whose charm doubled in the moon, Amane's appeal doubled under the sun. With the aquatic background it was reminiscent of “The Birth of Venus”.

But the other two weren't out shone. Erma's white hair shined strongly in the sunlight, and the supple peculiarities of her feline figure were beautifully displayed. Her pure white bikini blended into her white hair and for a moment she appeared to be naked.

And finally Kiriko's beautiful black hair and fine white skin, coupled with a bright red bikini was also very beautiful. But above all, the way she covered her limbs shyly with her hands made it more appealing. She was trying to show off but also wanted to remain dignified, she turned red looking at Seina who also turned red.

“.....” Neiju, who understood Amane's intention, sent a glare at her. However, she then immediately resumed smiling.

“Oh hello sisters, shouldn't you be busy with work?” she said as brightly as possible, while pretending to be an innocent child. For a moment she had thought of calling them old ladies, but it didn't fit with them dressed like that.

“Don't worry, everything is going well Princess,” Amane said with a satisfied smile as she nudged Kiriko.

“Ah, Amane!”

“Look, you're already here, Kiriko, why don’t you indulge yourself?”

“That's right, Kiriko-san” Erma said taking Kiriko by the arm to keep her from hiding herself. Both of the girls got up to hold her arms and she was exposed in front of Seina.

“Ah, I uhm ...” At that time, Kiriko noticed something to distract Seina.

“Oh, Seina-chan, where is Fuku-chan?”

“Eh!?”Seina looked where Fuku was supposed to be, but she was missing. Luckily the sand on the beach was white.

“Where is she!!?” Seina looked around and found a black round object in the sand that looked like a sea urchin had washed up in the waves. He realized a moment later that it was Fuku's tail.

“Fukuu! Fukuuuuu!!” Everyone rushed towards her, Seina dug her out of the sand.

“Fuku-chan, are you OK?”

“Mia! Mia aaan!” Fuku jumped out onto her feet and just as before, started playing with the waves.

“Oh Seina ... Maybe she has a death wish?” Amane said with an amazed face, Seina silently showed her the manual.

“... Kiriko, what do you think?” Amane, looked at Kiriko.

“No matter what it says, I can only judge based off what I've seen.”

“In the meantime she seems fine.”

“Physically ...”

“In other words, we should teach her better for the future right?” Amane let out a big sigh.

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About two hours later, Seina and Neiju made a tower as tall as Seina by moistening the sand with seawater. Fuku seemed to enjoy digging holes in it and there were holes here and there. It finally collapsed but they had kept rebuilding it. Of course, the building which was originally complicated had collapsed multiple times already and was gradually simplified into a simple mountain.

Amane and the others put up some big umbrellas in the immediate vicinity of them and lazily rested in the shade.

Amane in particular occasionally turned over, especially whenever Seina looked that way. She would sit and moved to emphasize her breasts and swim suit. And Seina would shyly look away even though he enjoyed watching it and Neiju would get mad for a moment and then distract Seina's attention away.

Amane and the others had created some shade with several parasols, and they were sprawled lazily underneath them.
Amane, in particular, turned over every now and then, as she waited for the moment that Seina would look her way.
Then she would pretend to adjust her bathing suit and move in ways to accentuate her breasts.
And then she enjoyed the sight of Seina averting his eyes in embarrassment, and Neju becoming furious in an instant.

Kiriko decided to rest and not get involved with the fight but was still upset by Neiju.

“Seina, Ms. Neiju, are you thirsty?” She said, giving Amane some support.

“Oh, that's right, we have drinks if you want to take a break.”

“No thanks.” Neiju said, noticing Kiriko's strategy but it was hot on the beach.

“I could use something to drink,” Seina said. Neiju picked up Fuku and headed for Kiriko to get ahead of Seina.

“Thank you, sister.” Neiju took a tropical drink from Kiriko, and handed it to Seina.

“Damn that almost worked.” Erma nudged Kiriko.

“Hehe, don't think it's over just yet.” Amane laughed.

“Fuku, I have something for you!” Amane yelled she raised up a carrot.

“Mya? Mia??”

“Fuku-chan!” Fuku jumped out of Neiju's arms and went to Amane and began to sniff the carrot.

Suddenly, Fuku took a bite. Fuku's expression brightened and she began chewing it, “... Mi miya ~ ~ ~”

Amane gave her another carrot and laid out some milk for her. “Just as I thought ... She loves carrots ...”

“How cute.”

Everyone forgot about the fight and watched Fuku eat happily.

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Fuku got full and took a nap.

“Neiju, we still have time to play, what do you want to do?” Seina asked.

“I'm tired from playing. If it's alright for you, I want to talk with my sisters now. Please take care of Fuku-chan for me”

“Well, ok but ...”

“We would love to.”

“Yes Seina, please leave her with us. Take Fuku with you and we will do Neiju's hair and nails,” Erma said. Kiriko also nodded.

“Oh, that reminds me Neiju-chan, we found out there is a formal guesthouse. If you like we can help you move your things there ...”

“I like the house I used yesterday ... And I don't like sleeping alone in such a big place.” Neiju said looking at Seina.

“If that's what you want Neiju-chan, I don't mind, I'll be waiting at the house.”

“Okay!”

“I'm taking Fuku with me, I'll see you later.”

“Bye.” Seina took Fuku from Neiju and headed for the transfer gate.

“So what do you want to talk about?” After confirming that Seina had disappeared, Kiriko turned towards Neiju.

“Let's clean up this place first place, older sisters.” Neiju pointed at the mess on the beach.

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Seina passed through an air shower room that was built like a corridor that was covered with pure white walls on all sides, he came out of it into a multipurpose dressing room which had used earlier to change into a swim suit.

“Wow did that really get rid of all the sand?” Seina looked at Fuku's fur. The fine sand that had been stuck in it was all gone. He put Fuku on the sofa, took his normal clothes out of a locker and went into the nearest changing booth and came out quickly after changing clothes.

“Master, I am so bored!” When Seina tried to approach Fuku, NB came at him shouting loudly as it suddenly jumped out of a transfer gate.

“!!” Seina grabbed NB and quickly jumped into the locker because there was soundproofing in there.

“Not so loud! Fuku will wake up!”

“Oh is Fuku is sleeping, I'm sorry.”

“Aren't you supposed to be on the bridge?” Although he was serious, Seina remained calm. If this was an emergency situation NB would have called him remotely.

“The adjustment is over, so I have no reason to be there anymore ... Also I got a communication that the three idiots have gone AWOL.”

“Three idiots? You mean Alan's people? Really? But it’s only been about three days since they left us ... Wait, why should I even care about what happened to them?”

* * * **Translators’ note: GXP 8's Neiju chapter is 3 days after the last book. * * ***

“They have information on our team ...”

“And ...?”

“Well, they’re still in massive amounts of debt ... So either they ran off to commit suicide or ... Well, if caught, they will be sent to jail or a correctional facility. So the only thing they can logically do is ... To leave the Galactic Federation.”

“Wait so you mean ... They're going to become pirates?”

“They might as well. If they’re going to be on the run from the law and can't pay the debt! Those three people ... No, Alan always picks the dumbest solution to everything. They will probably do

what they tried to do when they left the Kamidake the last time. I hope they aren't killed by pirates instead this time ... Oh well, if they aren't, I bet I'll just end up running into them again ...”

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Kiriko and the others finished tidying up and passed through the air shower passage. They entered the dressing room with Neiju and started to take off their bathing suits.

“May I help you?” Kiriko noticed that Neiju, who took off her bathing suit, was struggling to remove her hair ribbon.

“Yes, please!” Kiriko stood behind Neiju and took off her hair ribbon.

“How did you even get this on?”

“There was a machine to do it.”

“Is that so…?” Kiriko made a face for a moment. If she had a machine there was no reason she had to be doing this. She soon found out Neiju's real intention.

“Is that pattern!?” In the position hidden by Neiju’s hair was the same pattern of the Melmas emblem drawn on official documents issued by the shrine maiden.

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“You were aware of my name from the beginning, but you don't know Seto's intentions or if I was genuine or a fake ...”

“Is it real?”

“I am the legitimate shrine maiden of Melmas. My name is Neiju Na Melmas!” Suddenly the expression and tone of Neiju changed. “How dare you keep your head high in front of the Shrine Maiden? Kneel!”

“!!?”

With a majestic voice from Neiju, Kiriko and the others got down on one knee in front of her. But that was never their intention.

“My body! ... I can't move?” Kiriko was staring at the floor with a startled expression. “Damn it.”

Neiju overlooked Kiriko and the others with an aura full of majesty, the atmosphere of the room had turned into that of a shrine.

“Help!!” Kiriko's screams didn't match the atmosphere of the place.

“What's wrong?! Kiriko!?” Amane could only move her body a little with all her strength she watched helplessly as Neiju crouched down and started cupping Kiriko's breasts.

“What... What are you doing?”

“I've felt better ... But your hair is such a beautiful jet black so I guess that makes up for it.” Neiju ran her hands through Kiriko's hair as if putting her hand through a stream then she stood up and got closer to Amane.

“Ah I can't move my face either.”

Neiju put her hand on Amane's head. “To think someone with such a beautiful appearance would dare to oppose me ... And you ...”

Neiju crouched in front of Amane, “My lord how plump ... And on such a nice figure too.”

Neiju began rubbing Amane's breasts with both hands as if kneading bread dough. Neiju's face at this time had no majestic grace to it, but was a rather stupid looking expression.

“Hey! My chest is not dough.”

“Hmm!” Neiju violently took her hands off and then went to Erma. “That's some really beautiful white hair, it's as white as snow.”

“Oh, thank you.”

“I bet such fur would feel nice covering me as a coat.”

“Please, forgive me! Not my fur! Forgive me!” Elma tried to move her body desperately to run away, but she couldn't move.

“I'm not a cold-blooded dictator! I just demand what's owed to me!”

“Sorry, ma’am.”

“Well, from now on I will be spending as much time with Seina I want without any interruptions.”

“I see ... That's fine by me.”

“Ahahahaha! I'm looking forward to it.”

“Erma, what are you doing?!”

“If someone like her wants to do something, what the hell do you expect us to be able to do about it?”

Neiju came in front of them and looked towards them. And soon their freedom to move returned.

“What was that!?” Kiriko looked around checked her body. Then she stared at Neiju as if to ask for an answer.

“I can control the collective consciousness of a group of people. I can shift their thinking in a direction a certain degree, but in the case of a small number of people I have even more control, just like you experienced now.”

“Is that how you reign as a shrine maiden?”

“Reign? ... I'm only a puppet, used by the people in power who make all the decisions. With my age fixed it's easy. Not only is it to protect my virginity but it's used to protect them from having my abilities develop.”

“Is that why I've heard that Neiju has never left Melmas?”

“The reason why they sent her must have been to see about Seina's ability. The only reason they would send her here is to make sure his power won't interfere with their rule.” Kiriko's said upon pondering why Neiju would have been sent to Jurai. If Neiju was a puppet, the only reason for her being there would be other people's intentions, or due to Seto's behind the scenes interference.

“... So what did you find out about Seina, no, the Captain's ability?”

Seina's ability has already proven to be an abnormally biased probability. However calling upon Neiju meant that there could be something more to it.

“They wanted to see if his ability was like mine. If his probability bias can be consciously controlled or not, it's the difference between a natural disaster and terrorism.”

“So that's it! They want to see if his ability is being controlled by Seto's will?”

“Yes, and to do that it's necessary for me to stay near Seina, so I'm going to need for you to stay out of my way.”

“Well then Neiju-sama, what are you getting in return for being here?”

“Well, I get a reward for giving only the right person the answer. As a puppet it's my fate to be abandoned once I’m no longer needed ... The Shrine Maiden is no longer the center of politics these days. I know things that are not convenient for me to know, and my political power itself has become too big to ignore.”

“That damn hag, she is just throwing us into trouble every chance she gets ...”

“Seto will be waiting for us when we get to our destination, if you like you can complain to her then ... Well, I think I'm done here for now ...” Neiju smiled.

“I have to take a bath soon and get back to my older brother.” Neiju returned to her child-like impression and headed to the bath with light footsteps.

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“I can't believe you.” Gyokuren, who received an explanation from Seto, stared expressionlessly, at Seto and Kuisu.

“But Gyokuren, it was a survey we have to do, don't you trust Kiriko to handle this?”

“... No.” Gyokuren quickly heel turned and headed for the transfer gate.

“Gyokuren, where are you going?” Karen asked.

“Ms. Seto, I'm borrowing your room.” Gyokuren disappeared into the transfer gate.

“Gyokuren?!”

“She went to access NB, my room has a direct line.”

“Hakuren, Suiren, let's go after her!” They bowed to Seto and followed Gyokuren.

“... Whew, that was scary.” Seto and Kuisu wiped off the sweat on their face.

“Well ... That's enough for today.” Kuisu stood up like an old man and then steadily walked towards the transfer gate.

“Good job today.”

“I'm really tired.” Kuisu replied to Seto and then disappeared into the transfer gate. Seto crawled over to her chair-shaped throne and pulled herself up into it exhausted.

“You guys sold me out!”

“What else could we have done?”

“What, you couldn't have bought me just a little extra time?”

“Would you go up against an angry Gyokuren?”

“I need to rest ... I'm too tired to argue.”

After a while of her sulking in her chair an operator called out, “The Kamidake has reached the way point. The report has arrived.”

“Read it to me! Read it!! Read it!!” The report perked Seto up.

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“Mia! Mia!” Fuku was clinging to Kiriko's feet excitedly as she cooked in the kitchen.

“Fuku! Don't interfere with Kiriko's cooking.” Seina quickly lifted up Fuku and moved to the opposite side of the kitchen, towards the counter so as not to get in Kiriko's way.

“Little kids are always so interested in what goes on in a kitchen, Kai was like that too.” Kiriko said happily and smiled at Fuku.

“Yoshiko was like that too ... But well ... For me ...” Seina said.

“I understand. You don't even have to say it.”

“Well, the kitchen has many dangerous things in it.” Amane and Erma who were sitting at the counter helping Kiriko, smiled wryly.

“Miah, Miah.” Fuku wanted a closer look, she flapped her paws to try to break loose.

“Hey, Fuku. Calm down.”

“Big brother, I think it's hard for her to see what’s going on at that angle.”

“Ah, oh, I see.” Like she said, at the current position Fuku couldn't see anything but Kiriko's hand. Seina raised Fuku up. Fuku suddenly became quiet and swung her tail happily.

Neiju noticed something. “Big brother, please lend me Fuku-chan.” She took Fuku from Seina and put Fuku on her head.

“Ne, Neiju-chan!”

“This is much better isn't it?” The top of Neiju's head was almost the same as the position Seina had previously lifted Fuku.

“But if you put her on your head ...!” Seina tried to warn her that Fuku could fall off but the appearance of Sasami overlapped the appearance of Neiju in his mind and he stood silent.

(... Sasami does that too, come to think of it.) Seina thought and he noticed Kiriko smiling in the direction of Neiju. Perhaps Kiriko noticed it too. After a moment, his eyes met with Kiriko's, and they laughed together.

“What are you two laughing at?” Amane asked smiling wryly.

“Oh, sorry. Actually ...” Kiriko started talking about Sasami and Ryo-Ohki to Amane while cooking.

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Kiriko's dishes were arranged one after another on a large table on the other side of the kitchen.

“Mia!” Fuku, who was excited about the situation, jumped off of Neiju onto the table.

“Fuku, don't sit on there!” It was calm but it was a commanding voice from Kiriko. Fuku stopped and froze in place.

“The top of the table is where we put the food, so don't get on top of it.” Kiriko placed a box between Seina and Neiju and folded a towel on top of it. It was just right for Fuku to eat on top of the table. Kiriko lifted Fuku and put her there.

“This will be your seat Fuku-chan.”

“Miah?” Fuku looked at Seina and Neiju alternately, and saw the other people sitting around the table too.

“Mia!” Fuku, who realized that her seat was next to Seina's, seemed happy and she shook her tail.

“Good, Fuku.”

“Here's your dinner.”

In front of Fuku, who was being stroked by Seina, Kiriko arranged a rectangular plastic dish containing various dishes in a row like the keys on a piano. It was luxurious, and not at all inferior to the dishes arranged on the table.

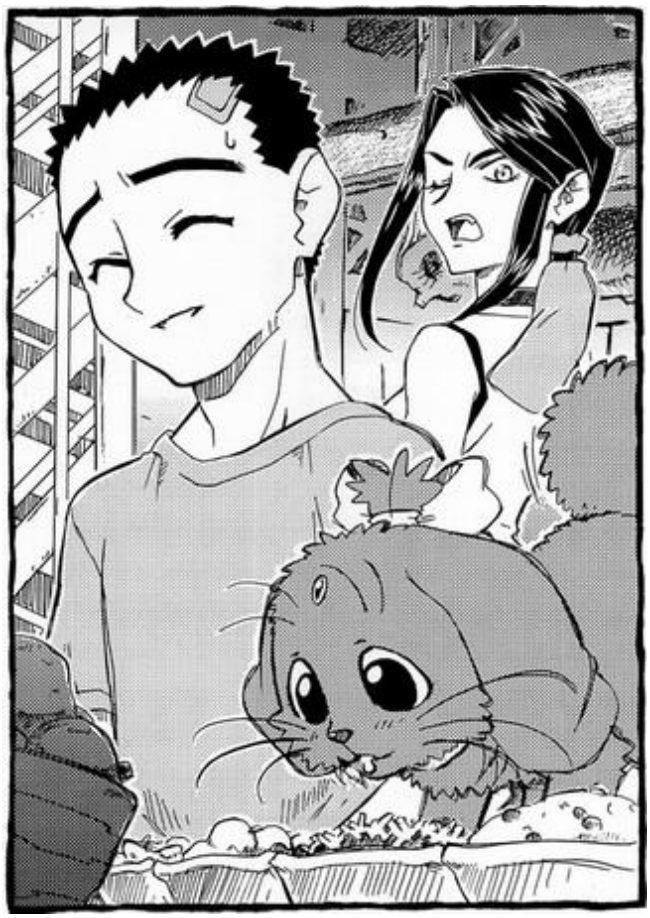
Kiriko thought that it was better for Fuku, who was just born, not to eat strongly stimulating or spiced items, but the others were eating a variety of dishes.

“Mia! Mia!”

As expected by Kiriko, Fuku was excited about the dishes arranged in front of herself and looked to Seina to talk about it.

“Fuku-chan, I know it looks good but please wait till everyone's ready.” Neiju said.

“Miah?” Fuku looked around, and noticed that no one had begun eating yet, she stiffened her posture. Nonetheless, Fuku's head gradually approached the cooking, to sniff the delicious smell and look at it closer.



“Fuku-chan!

When her nose was about to go right into the food, Kiriko called out to stop her.

“Mya!” Fuku quickly corrected her posture.

However, it did not last long, soon all the preparations were in place, and Kiriko let everyone begin eating.

“Miyaaaaaaaaaaaa ~ ~ ...” Fuku with a swelled-up stomach was lying face up on a large cushion in a satisfied manner. She soon dozed off.

“Well, I'm going to study a bit.” Seina confirmed that Fuku was asleep, and gently and quietly stood up.

“Do you want some tea? Kiriko who had a teapot and a cup on a tray called out.

“It's a bit late for that.”

“Big brother, don't worry leave Fuku-chan to me.”

“Thank you.” Seina went to the corner of the living room accompanied with NB and put up a secret wall.

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“Well, would you like me to go?” Kiriko asked as she put a blanket over Fuku.

“Kiriko, you're from the same town as Seina right? Maybe today's food was from there too?”

“Yes ... Did it not suit your pallet?”

“It was a bit odd ... But no, it was pretty delicious, you are a good cook.”

“Thank you.”

“So... Did you make it specifically for big brother?”

“Yes, I thought it would help keep him from getting mentally fatigued ...”

“Oh ... Are you feeling mentally fatigued?”

“I feel like I can understand the amount of pressure he has been under lately.”

“When I first saw a detailed report on Seina, I felt a very dangerous impression.”

“Dangerous?”

“I figured he would be much different from how he actually is on account of how he has had to live with such a great probability bias for so long. Much scarier.”

“... So, how are you feeling about him now?”

“I was surprised honestly, he is very normal. I figured he would be at least mentally broken, but he has a really healthy spirit ... I mean there's some stuff there but he really didn't fit my expectations.” Neiju said, Amane and Erma smiled.

“... I can't guarantee the future, but I suspect in the future even more will be expected of him then now and you should be careful.”

“I've concluded that as well but I don't think Seina will want to retire.”

“But he has no reason why he can't?”

“That's technically true ... But honestly I'm not confident that that really is the case.” Erma also nodded to agree with Amane.

“When I met Seina he was 3 years old and he had already given up on his future, because of his bad luck! He was only 3! But ...”

“Going into space opened the way for him to have a future?”

“Yes, and for him to retire would mean he would lose that future. There's nothing else he can do with his bad luck.”

“That sounds a little selfish ...”

“Well, that's because it is.”

“... I see, so that's why everyone is riding Seina ragged.” Neiju wryly smiled at Fuku. The Kamidake was obviously just one of the tools for others to use Seina.

“So what will happen if they run him ragged and can't keep a hold of him?”

“Seina's desire when he was on the planet was to go into space where he could go anywhere he wanted, so ...”

“So if he could go anywhere he wanted he would probably try to leave this galaxy ... It's no wonder why they might want to keep the reins on him.”

In the current Galactic Federation exploring outside of the galaxy was impossible. Of course, even in the galaxy, there were many places that had not yet been explored. The Galactic Federation, and Space Pirate territory and the planets in the Renza Federation only amounted to about 30% of the whole galaxy. Even during the prosperous part of the prehistoric civilization it was just 50%. It's not an exaggeration to say that dreaming of escaping the galaxy was an idea that was strange, usually reserved for an odd recluse, or someone with a death wish.

For Seina to fulfill what he wanted to do without harming others, it would be the natural choice for him to go retire out alone outside the galaxy.

“With the Kamidake's abilities, Seina's dream could come true.”

“Besides the royal ships and Ryo-Ohki, this ship could easily be said to be the best in the Galactic Federation.”

“But I wonder if Fuku would let him ...”

“So ... What do you think about Seina's wish?” Neiju said looking at Amane and Erma. She wanted Kiriko's answer last.

“I'm okay with it ... I still think he is too young to do that though ... But well... “Amane started to think about the future and got a weird look on her face, she suddenly blushed.

“Amane-san, what's the matter?”

“Oh ... Nothing ... How about you Erma?”

“I … uhm!” Soon Erma noticed why Amane was embarrassed. She was thinking about how she would come with him. For both Ryoko Balta and Erma, with Seina was the only place she wanted to be.

“... I want to do whatever Seina does. But of course not unless he has the experience to pull it off safely ...” Erma looked at Amane.

“I am also interested in exploring outside the galaxy.” she said.

“Oh, then how about you Kiriko?”

“Uhm, I ...” Kiriko's reaction meant she was obviously aware of what Amane and Erma's words had meant. But still there was a big conflict in her.

“I still think it is premature to make that conclusion. Both physically and mentally he isn't ready ... No, more important than that is that he isn't experienced enough yet, but other than that I want to go with him if he did that.”

“Haha, I know you want to protect him but I'm sure you'd rest easier knowing he was out of reach of your mother.” Neiju's said smiling, obviously knowing what happened with Seina and Kuisu.

“Nei, Neiju-sama!” Kiriko shouted. Amane and Erma backed up like they had just seen a shark sense blood in the water.

“I'm just saying ... you and her both act like mothers to Seina. I'm sure that isn't the only thing you'd like to be to him.”

“Hmpf ... I'm leaving ... If you need me, I'll be making checks to the systems before we set sail.” Kiriko headed out to the bridge and violently closed the front door.

“Hmm ... It’s a bit weird thinking of Seina as a man.”

“Yeah ... but it's a bit exciting don't you think?”

“Either way, that reaction was bit excessive don't you think?”

“Excessive yes, but I think Kiriko probably feels the weirdest about Seina growing out of being a child.”

“Do you think she is afraid of him becoming a man?”

“I think she is more afraid to accept that fact.”

“I can see why, her relationship with Seina would change ... She has had a sort of Mother and child ... Sister and brother relationship, and that would make it more of a woman and a man relationship wouldn't it?” Amane said with a smile and sipped some tea.

“Neiju-sama, is your questioning by any chance a part of your survey?”

“A bit. Either way, it's intentional that Ms. Hakuren's crew was removed from this mission ... You two should go help Kiriko ... I'll make sure Seina gets some tea when he is done studying.”

“Okay, then, thank you for your help.” Erma and Amane headed for the entrance after bowing to Neiju.

“... I wonder how much longer he is going to be in there.” Neiju muttered once they were gone. Then she heard something.

“Mya myaaaa myaaa”

“Fuku-chan?”

“Mi! Miaa! Mia aan!”

“What's wrong Fuku-chan?” Fuku-chan wanted to see Seina. She ran into the secret wall and was repelled by the field.

“Mia! Mia!” She tried again and again.

“Fuku-chan! Stop!” Neiju caught Fuku and lifted her up in the air to get her to stop.

“He's fine. He is just working on his schoolwork, don't disturb him.” Neiju moved a small footstool in front of the secret wall so Fuku could sit and watch it while they waited.

“Here ... now you can see him as soon as he finishes.”

“Miah!” Neiju sat back and checked out the Kamidake's data library.

“This is ... amazing.” There was data of all kinds in it. It was much more than Neiju was ever able to access in her palace.

Neiju searched to see what Melman books they had out of curiosity. An amazing number of results were displayed and she was forced to enter a more specific search. And Neiju dared to enter a pretty upsetting subject.

“Wow ...” There was the book by Neiju's deceased mother that she had written for her friends, she had only made about 50 copies. Though they were handed out to friends as wedding gifts, most of them were burned due to war, and not even Neiju had a copy.

Neiju had heard rumors that a collector had discovered only one once in the past, she was never able to verify that.

“How did Washu Hakubi get this?” Neiju muttered while looking closely at the cover. She didn't see the book's cover but rather memories of the past that remained with her only vaguely, which were being revived by the book. It was sad, but nostalgia and pleasantly surprising and comforting.

“Mia!”

“!!” Neiju, who was immersed in pleasant memories, was brought back to reality with Fuku's delighted meows. Neiju looked reflexively towards Fuku and immediately understood the reason for Fuku's happiness.

“Mia! Miah! Mia!” Seina had dropped the wall and was petting Fuku.

“Hey, big brother would you like some tea ...” Neiju smiled wryly.

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“Oh, so that's why she was so eager to see me ... I'm sorry Fuku.” Seina stroked Fuku's head. Fuku chewed on the hem of the Seina's T-shirt.

“NB is this really necessary for me to feed her milk like this?”

“The manual says she doesn't need to eat, and she definitely doesn't need breast milk, but I figure if you do this it might replicate the process of breast feeding and help you two bond.”

“I guess that's a good thing ... Fuku, have you calmed down?”

“Miah!”

“Well then ... let's take a bath and go to bed.”

“Ok.”

Fuku climbed on Seina’s shoulder and she and Seina headed for the bath. Neiju began picking up the teapots and cups.

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“Good morning.”

“Oh ... Hello Kirche!” Seina woke up in his dreams to the voice of Kirche for the first time in a long time. He jumped up swiftly. Kirche had something she wanted to talk to Seina about concerning the incident with Seto's package.

“I'm sorry for inconveniencing you.” Kirche deeply lowered her head.

“But it's thanks to you, Kirche, that we were all saved. There's no need to be sorry.”

“But I got Alan involved too!”

“Things like that will just happen as long as I'm Captain. That can't be avoided.”

“Yeah ... I know ... but thank you! I just felt I had to apologize.” Tears spread from Kirche's eyes, but she quickly wiped them away.

“Oh! Also ... today, I called you here because I wanted to tell you something.”

“What is it?”

“Why NB keeps fighting with Fuku-chan.”

“Actually I have wondered that ...”

“It's a very simple, Fuku-chan seems to know who controls NB.”

“By any chance ...”

“Yes, whenever Airi-sama is in control she gets violent, but I'm sure she's just trying to protect you.”

“I guess that makes sense ... Thank you for telling me.”

“I wanted to inform you as soon as possible ... By the way, Fuku recognizes me too.”

There were only a few people other than Airi who knew she was in NB. Kiriko knew there was someone in it, but not that it was Kirche.

“How are things with your father?”

“Airi-says he is buried in troubles.”

The troubles were the broken contracts and legal problems that occurred because of Kirche's disappearance. Naturally they fell on her father who was her creator but those problems were being cleared up by Airi as best as she could.

“But my father seems upset ... I think it will take time for his injured heart to heal.”

“Is that so ... I think you may be right.” Seina said.

“When everything is cleared up, are you going to go back to the entertainment industry again?”

“Perhaps ... But I don't think I will. I find working for you to be much more fulfilling.” Kirche said with a smile that she rarely showed on TV.

“I'm relieved to hear you say that, thank you, but please be aware that there may be other various inconveniences in the future.”

“No, thank you Seina.” Kirche tried to reach out to Seina for a handshake when...

“F- Fuku-chan!” A monitor showed what was happening outside where Fuku was violently shaking NB.

“Mya, Mia.”

“I think Fuku knows you’re in here.”

“Does she? But ...”

“... There is no mistaking it. That's the cry pattern she makes when calling you Seina.”

“So Fuku knows I'm in here?”

“No doubt about it ...”

“Mya, Mia!”

The shaking became stronger, Fuku seemed like she wanted to join him in here.

“Can we let Fuku in here?”

“Airi has ownership rights so I can't do that ... At least not right away.”

“I see ... Can you wake me up so I can console her?”

“How much longer do you want to sleep?”

“About three more hours.”

“Ok, I'll wake you up.”

“And when I go to sleep again will you get me up in three hours?”

“Whatever you like, just remember to adjust the acceleration space.”

The conscious link with Kirche, although it didn't cause physical fatigue, did create a slight mental fatigue. It wasn't an issue when living a normal life, but during a mission it could lead to a decline in judgment. For that reason it would be necessary for her to let him sleep normally for the rest of the night.

“Thank you, I would appreciate that.” Seina crawled into the bed and closed his eyes.

“Mia miah, Mia!” Fuku who noticed that the link was broken went closer to Seina’s body. As Fuku thought he would, Seina woke up and calmed her down. Then he went back to sleep.

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When Seina fell asleep, Kirche transformed NB in the real world and introduced herself to Fuku. She petted her for a while and then asked if she wanted to go for a walk because she was having trouble sleeping. Fuku took her up on the offer and they left the accelerated space of the house and went to the park outside.

“It feels good.” The cold breeze made Kirche stretch a little. Kirche started walking to the central circular park with Fuku on her head.

“Since we are outside of the field we only have about 20 minutes till Seina wakes up.”

“Mia!”

Both Kirche and Fuku were artificial intelligences. Between the two of them they felt something like a mysterious empathy for each other. In addition, Kirche had felt similar feelings towards Miki.

“Mya, Mya!” Fuku ran around and had fun.

“Are you having fun?”

“Mia!”

Kirche enjoyed watching Fuku play but suddenly, “Oh!?” Kirche changed back into NB.

“Mia?” Fuku noticed someone was approaching.

“Fuku-chan, NB! What are you two doing out here?” Kiriko cried out worried. “NB, what happened?”

“Fuku couldn't sleep so I took her for a walk.”

“I see ...” Kiriko gently stroked Fuku's head.

“Hey Kiriko, catch!” Suddenly NB threw Fuku towards Kiriko, a little violently.

“NB!”

“Go run off and see master you fur ball, I'm busy talking ...”

“Migyat!” Fuku kicked NB into the air with a splendid triangular jump using Kiriko and the trees of the park.

“Fuku-chan!” Kiriko was quick to catch Fuku and held her with both hands. “Fuku, I know what it did was wrong but don't hurt NB.” She scolded Fuku with a scary face. But Fuku was wagging her tail with a full smile.

“... Do you understand? Ugh, I can’t stay mad at you...” Kiriko was unable to keep that face on and began to hug Fuku.

“It is almost time for Seina to get up, so I came to get him, let's go wake him up.” Kiriko put Fuku on her head and walked into Seina's house.

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“Grrrr... damn that chubby little bastard ~!” Airi shouted loudly as she kicked her office desk in anger. But the desk moved quickly and avoided Airi's kick.

“Ahhhhhhhh!” Airi went flying up and fell on her butt. She hit the back of her head during the fall, and could not speak due to the pain.

“We just received a request to let someone in NB. I think you should take a look at it.”

“What? Why? Everyone who was supposed to be approved to be in NB has already been approved!”

Mikami handed it to Airi and turned away from her. Steam practically blew out of Airi's ears as she read it.

“So that little furry bastard knows when I'm inside NB and wants me to let her come whenever Kirche needs to talk to Seina?! Why should I? She has ruined all my fun lately! I have half a mind to say no!”

“I think she just wants to protect Seina, ho ho ho.”

“What the heck good is that little animal going to do for him in there?”

“I think you're just mad at her for who she was.” Fuku's astral core was made with Widow's astral.

“That is over already, that girl has another personality ... But ...”

“But?”

“I envy her! She got born back into such a cushy and comfy position! It's not fair!”

“Why don't you go take a break and live with your husband for a while?”

“Well ... things with Yosho and I are ... Uhm ... Well I can't say there going all that well.”

“Huh?” Mikami, had a strange look on her face, she wasn't sure whether she should continue this conversation in secret or not.

“I tried to get him to use a Marionette that was designed to look like he looked when we first met.”

“……I see. That's uhm ... Ok ...” Airi met Yosho when he was twelve years old.

“Do you think Seina would be up for it if I asked him to?”

“I think that it won't matter either way ... Unless you can become friends with Fuku-chan.”

From the view point of an educator, Airi's action should be stopped, but Airi was like a natural disaster. It wasn't possible for Mikami to stop her but if she could divert its course even a little it might do less damage.

Chapter Six: Fuku · First Mission

It was about two hours after Seina woke up that the Kamidake started quietly rising from the lake.

“We have permission to depart from Central Control to head out on the rest of our mission.” On the bridge everyone was sitting in their seats.

“I'm sensing three small vessels around this general area of space.”

“We should be careful to avoid them, we don't want to get ambushed while trying to jump into hyperspace.”

“Then let's enter hyperspace from satellite orbit using a water mirror.” Kiriko suggested.

A water mirror was a jump where they flatten out the gravity in an area to distort space and use it as a hole for entering hyperspace. Using that method it was possible to enter hyperspace even on a planet, but it would cause the planet serious damage, however if used in satellite orbit, the planet would normally be unharmed.

*** * * Translators’ note: This is the jump that Seto uses to appear in the middle of the pirate ships in Volume 1, Chapter 3 / Episode 3. * * ***

“Ok, well, that should be simple enough to do with this ship.”

Normally, a water mirror had to be generated using three ships, but in the case of the Kamidake or a royal ship, three compressed high energy bodies could be used as the core. It was simple to pull off if you went through the steps one by one.

“Roger that.”

“Charge completed.”

“Injection point confirmed. Cores launched.”

The three cores launched from the Kamidake and generated circular fields in satellite orbit that looked like a water mirror where the three circular fields overlapped. “Program loaded! Initiating hyperspace jump!”

The Kamidake rushed into hyperspace a few seconds after breaking through the atmosphere.

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“Seto, Kamidake has started moving from the midway point and has made a hyperspace jump in satellite orbit,” an operator on the Mikagami's Bridge reported to Seto who was again laying on her throne exhausted.

“That's nice ... I'm just going to take a nap for a while.” Seto said as she laid in her throne.

“How about taking a break in your room?”

“I don't want to be haunted.”

“Do you have a ghost in there?” The operator strangely looked at the operator next to her. She was confused.

“Gyokuren got angry and relapsed back into that scary state of hers once she looked through NB and saw what was going on with the Kamidake.”

“Oh ... So that's what this was.”

“Between her and Suiren, I am exhausted.” Seto fell asleep on her throne.

The operators turned away but when they later turned and looked in her direction, their hair stood on end and they suddenly turned away and buried themselves in their work. Suiren was standing over Seto who was sleeping on her throne.

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Even though Seina's luck was bad, they didn't encounter Space Pirates every time they jumped. However his probability bias naturally flared up the more they jumped and it activated on their third jump out.

“I'm reading 5 pirate ships and 3 unconfirmed vessels!” Fuku activated the ships weapons and set the ship to attack them.

“No!” Kiriko shouted forcing the systems to reset.

“Mia!?”

“Don't attack our enemies!” Kiriko said strongly to Fuku who was confused about the attack being canceled. Suddenly the pirate ship fired at the Kamidake.

“Mia!!” Fuku panicked and stiffened up on the center table. Their ability to control the ship was disturbed.

“Mia! Mia!” Fuku, who was driven by fear, ran to Seina, and crouched down under him.

“Fuku, it's all right! Fuku!”

“Fuku-chan!” Neiju moved next to Seina and picked Fuku up. “Don't worry, we'll be fine.” Neiju firmly embraced Fuku.

However, as the ship was Fuku's main body, Fuku's fear, which was a fear of being exposed to the attacks of the Space Pirates, was not easily dispelled. Moreover, Kiriko had to keep canceling attacks Fuku was setting to be fired.

“Emergency jump!” Neiju shouted.

Kamidake made a hyperspace jump. “Fuku, are you OK?”

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They jumped into hyperspace and confirmed they were safe. Seina looked over at Fuku and she jumped away from Neiju and ran to his knee trembling. Seina couldn't let Fuku attack the pirates no matter how she felt, it would violate his orders. All he could do was pet her head to calm her down.

“Fuku, I'm sorry, but everyone is working hard to make sure you don't get hurt, so please be patient.”

“... Miah” Fuku looked up at Seina with watery eyes.

“Captain, we will return to normal space soon.”

“Roger that.”

“Fuku, come to me, I'll hold you.”

“Miaa!” But Fuku hated the thought of leaving Seina.

“I'll take her now big brother.” Neiju took Fuku from Seina.

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“We have returned to normal space! I'm detecting a surveillance ship!”

“Mia!” Fuku cried out.

Suddenly. “A few dozen ships are jumping out!” Erma announced.

Amane had already known what Fuku's cries meant and had steered Kamidake out of the way of the pirates attacks.

“We're getting a request for communications from the Mikagami!” NB reported.

“OK! Emergency jump!” Seina told Kiriko and they quickly set an alternate route.

A few seconds later, the Kamidake jumped into hyperspace.

“Mia! Miaa!” Fuku cried. Heavy vibrations occurred on the hull.

“Three ships have followed us into hyperspace and are firing on us. It's the three that we picked up when we left the planet!”

“So that's what a near miss feels like in hyper space.”

“We need to jump out, it's stupid to try and fight in hyperspace!” Amane cried, as they suddenly left hyperspace, one ship kept following them but the other two failed to jump out.

“I'm not willing to sacrifice us because of one ship!”

The enemy ship came close to the Kamidake and launched a desperate attack.

“Energy values increasing! This must be a suicide bombing!”

“Jump out!”

“They’re in too close a proximity! Even if we jump out we can't escape!” The other ship would come out with them.

With the Kamidake's shielding ability, it was possible to endure a suicide bombing from a much larger ship but that was only when the Kamidake was in a perfect state. There was no guarantee that they could do it while having an immature Fuku at the helm. The enemy ship was wrapped in white light, Seina quickly got up and reached out to pet Fuku on the head as she trembled against Neiju's chest.

“Fuku!” He said.

“Myan!!” Fuku's scream caused the bridge to light up and it shot off ahead of the other ship.

Kiriko who had stiffened to prepare for the shock looked up in confusion. “What happened? Where's the explosion?” She asked checking the monitor where nothing but hyperspace was displayed.

“Big brother!”

“Huh?”

“I think we got away because you touched Fuku?” Neiju said, everyone looked at Seina all at once.

“There's no way ... I just barely touched her ...” he also seemed surprised.

“Maybe Fuku-chan was able to read your intentions?” Fuku shook her tail happily as she looked at Seina.

“We can investigate that later, but for now we have other things to take care of.”

“Kiriko, we have passed the designated jump out point what should we do?”

“Captain, please let us know when you wish to jump out.”

“OK! Let's do that now!”

“Alright. Jump out!”

The Kamidake returned to normal space.

“I'm reading a surveillance ship! ... It's the ship that nearly missed us last time!”

“... Erma, what's their status?”

“I don't think they've noticed yet ...!!! No, wait, I'm sensing many ships jumping out at once!” Erma was a little shocked.

“Mya! Mia!” Fuku cried to warn them of the battleship approaching. Soon they surrounded the Kamidake.

“What do we do?” Amane asked while dodging the ships.

“Emergency jump!”

“That won’t be necessary!” Neiju said in a somewhat grown up sounding voice.

“Ms. Kiriko, the mission is complete now!”

“Understood!” Kiriko realized that Seto had wanted to call to tell them that the mission had ended. “Fuku, don't worry we will protect you,” Kiriko cried out, targets were displayed on the ships and a beam shot out but it diverted and missed.

“What? Fuku!?” The rest of the targets were removed. Amane looked away from the monitor and looked at Fuku from the corner of her eye.

“Mia! Mia!” Fuku was trembling. Although the mission was over, her fear was keeping her from targeting and attacking accurately.

“We're detecting heavy gravitational waves. Oh this pattern ...”

“It's the Seventh Fleet! That's Kanemitsu's Fleet!” It was a pattern Kiriko knew well.

The fleet jumped out and soon destroyed the pirates.

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“Whyew ...” While clapping Amane unexpectedly whistled in admiration.

A communication from Kanemitsu came in. “I'm sorry we're late. Are you alright?”

“Thank you for your help, we're safe.” Everyone stood up and saluted.

“That's good ... Oh? How is that little one doing?” Kanemitsu said when he noticed Fuku.

“... Miah!” Fuku looked at Kanemitsu and shook her tail.

“Hahaha ... Good. Well, we will handle things here for now, please head on to meeting point.” Communication's ended.

With that they made a hyperspace jump toward their destination.

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Kamidake jumped out near a food resource planet in Juraian space. In satellite orbit there was a large space port for exporting food.

*** * * Translators' note: This seems obvious from the description ... This has to be planet Kanemitsu. Washu's home planet. * * ***

"Why would Seto choose a planet like this?"

"It's an agricultural planet, there are few outsiders here and its exports are distributed to various places, so it's perfect for camouflaging movement. And large containers are also very convenient for large supermarkets."

"So you're saying it's so they could hide a royal ship sized object?"

"Maybe even a fleet too."

"I've connected to the guidance beacon." Erma announced, breaking the conversation between Amane and Kiriko.

Kamidake entered the space port. They passed through the gate into a wooden harbor like you would see on Jurai, where Seto's Mikagami was anchored.

Seina traveled through several transfer gates and came to a park with an observatory for looking into the planet's skies.

*** * * Translators' note: Like Washu's orphanage. * * ***

"Is that that damn old hag I see over there ...?" Amane wrinkled between the eyebrows as she confirmed if the person she saw by the fountain was Seto.

"Seto-sama!" Kiriko also saw Seto and called out to her. There was Seto looking like an over worked manga artist who had been kept up all night long working to fill a deadline. Behind her was Hakuren's group waving to them. However, contrary to her appearance Seto's face was filled with the joy of having been liberated.

"Seina!" Gyokuren walked toward Seina like a magnet attracted to steel. And the other three who felt the same feelings as Gyokuren, followed her all at once.

“Seina, please don't leave us again.” Gyokuren, seemed like a puppy who had just seen its master after a long vacation away from it.

“I'm glad you are all safe.” Hakuren said.

“Thank you, Hakuren.”

“Hold on, my mission isn't over yet.” Neiju walked towards Seto.

“Oh, that's right.” Seina began to follow Neiju.

“Seina, welcome back ~ ~, it's good that you're safe ~ ~, I'm happy ~ ~, I was waiting ~ ~ ...” Seto said exhausted.

“I'm not home yet ... uhm, Lady Seto are you okay?”

“She's a little tired, I'm sorry.” Seto's officer, who was waiting in the shadows rushed over, and put up a cot and a small tent on the spot.

“... Sorry if this is a little impolite.” Seto went in and the curtain at the entrance went down. The awning formed a secret wall and inside was an acceleration space.

“Please come this way,” Hakuren returned to her female official mode and guided Seina to a table with a large roof. Everyone was seated and served sweets and tea, Seto who got plenty of sleep in the acceleration space before they entered sat down looking much better.

“I'm sorry to put such a burden on you.”

“It's ok, we saw quite a lot of interesting things on this mission.” Amane said without complaint.

“That may be so, but I know it was hard work to finish this mission, and I expect you to tell me all about it in a detail ... But first, would you please introduce me to the little one?” Seto said.

“Hi there, I heard you're Ryo-Ohki's Sister, we're all looking forward to meeting you.” The officers ran to Fuku to crowd her.

“Miah!” Fuku ran to hide behind Seina.

“It's all right, Fuku.” Seina urged her to stand up on the table, but he didn't force her, he left it up to Fuku to decide.

“... Miah?” Fuku observed the officers, and proceeded forward with caution, but unexpectedly walked forward upon seeing Seto's face. She got up on the table without assistance and walked up to Seto's hand. She looked at Seto's face and wagged her tail.

“Nice to meet you, little one.” Seto slowly reached out and hugged Fuku.

“... Mia?” Fuku felt something familiar about Seto, but didn't know what it was. However, Fuku, felt nostalgic about her warmth, and let down her guard. “Mia, Mia!”

Slowly the other officers came to greet her and pet her and everything went smoothly until Gyokuren came to pet her.

As soon as Karen, who was holding Fuku, tried to hand her over to Gyokuren, “Mya? Miau!” Fuku jumped out of Karen's hand and onto the table where she took an offensive position towards Gyokuren.

“Fuku-chan!!”

“Oh, my how intriguing.” Gyokuren said as she stared at Fuku.

“Animals, and sometimes children, just naturally fear Gyokuren's uhm ...” Hakuren told Kiriko loudly, before mumbling her words at the end. Kiriko and others quickly remembered when Seina had seen Gyokuren's true nature before.

“Well ... If I could sense that madness, I'd instinctively watch out for it too I guess.” Kiriko whispered to Amane and Erma so that Seina didn't hear her.

But Seina, didn't understand what Hakuren meant. “Fear, but Fuku doesn't seem to hate Gyokuren ...”

“What?! ... Oh!” The others stared at Fuku. Amane was the first to notice what he meant. Even though Fuku was in an alert position, they noticed that the expression Fuku had on and how she was wagging her tail showed that she was happy.

“Hey Gyokuren, move little bit away from Fuku.”

“What?” Gyokuren took a few steps back from Fuku. Then Fuku got closer to maintain the distance. “Oh dear!” Gyokuren, who understood Amane's intentions, repeatedly approached and stepped back several times. Sure enough, Fuku repeatedly moved to keep a certain distance from Gyokuren.

Gyokuren was a little relieved. “I see ... so she likes me but her instincts or body are making her keep a safe distance from me.”

Hakuren grabbed Fuku softly and took her away. Gyokuren was glad that she was not hated, but was still sad that she couldn't touch Fuku.

“Perhaps, when she grows up she might be able to control that instinct, and you can hold her.” Amane said to comfort Gyokuren.

“I hope so,” she said with a sigh.

Fuku was lastly handed over to Suiren. “Nice to meet you.”

When she received Fuku, she kissed Fuku lightly on the forehead and gazed at Seina. Seina rose quickly and came to Suiren to take Fuku.

“... Um, maybe if Seina hugs Fuku ...”

Seina understood the intent of Suiren's words, but her voice vanished. As soon as he received Fuku, he approached Gyokuren slowly. Fuku didn't move. “.....” Gyokuren slowly reached out to Fuku while being embarrassed. Ten centimeters, five centimeters, four centimeters, three centimeters, two centimeters, one centimeter, and her hand touched Fuku's head. However, Fuku stood on Seina's arm without running away.

“.....” Kiriko let out a sigh of relief. Gyokuren stroked Fuku's head happily.

“Well, then, that takes care of that ... Well then, Seina, you have a two-hour break and then you will be returning to the Academy.”

“Oh, Seto, I have something I want to ask.” Seina held Fuku and turned towards Seto.

“What is it?”

“About this mission ... Can you tell me why Neiju was used as a decoy?”

Although Seina's words contained a slight anger, Seina understood that Seto wouldn't be phased by it. He also knew that he would not necessarily receive an answer if he asked if it was a confidential matter, perhaps it was strange favor which Neiju could not refuse.

“.....” Seto kept silent and pretended to think a bit. She had to think how to phrase this so she could say something that would satisfy Hakuren's girls and not upset Seina. Gyokuren, and the others were clearly enjoying the conflict going on in Seto's head.

(This is bad, but at the very least, I have to keep Seina on my side!) Seto slowly raised her head while sweat dripped down her forehead. “Well ... I can understand your frustration, especially because you don't particularly like putting others in danger, especially not a young girl.”

“If possible, I think you could think about her safety a bit more ... She's not like me, I have nothing to lose as a decoy.” It was dangerous to be a decoy even if it was simple, but when you combined that with Seina's presence, it attracted disasters and the degree of danger went up by several orders of magnitude. It was extremely difficult to protect someone under such circumstances.

“Brother, you did a good job making sure I would arrive here safely, but you see my job was actually to investigate you.” Neiju said.

“Investigate me!?”

“She has a kind of superpower, she was investigating the nature of your probability bias.”

“Neiju-chan is that true?”

“There was no one who could have done it as well as she could have. I thought she would be ok because you were taking her on the new Kamidake, but ... I will be careful as much as possible from now on.” Seto was careful not to apologize about the mission content.

“I understand.” However, as Neiju had clarified things, Seina was satisfied with her answer.

“Well, a room has been prepared for Seina and the little one, so please go there and relax, the others and I have to talk.” Seina got up and bowed and left.

“Well ... I'm glad that's over.” When he disappeared, Seto smiled at Neiju. And suddenly Kiriko stunned Seto and Neiju, with angry expressions.

“You shitty old hag! How dare you!” Kiriko seemed to be sitting silently earlier but in reality she was being compelled to say nothing by Neiju's power to avoid anything else being told to Seina.

“Kiriko! ... What do you mean by that?” Hakuren asked not knowing what was going on.

“This Lolibitch can control the direction of the collective consciousness! She had her use it to control us.”

“Oh, I see ...” Once the circumstances were known, Hakuren quickly regained her calmness.

“Is there a problem?”

“You can't keep sending Seina on missions like this ... You're running him ragged. Seina's mental endurance is strong but he can only take so much.”

“I'm only using his misfortune to help others ...”

“Seto-sama ... don't act like this isn't a big deal.” Amane said.

“No matter what you think, I ... No, the world will not let Seina be yours, you can't just use him at your convenience whenever you like to achieve victory without thinking of his well-being!”

“If that's what you plan to do ... Then you can count us out too.” Gyokuren said everyone glared at Seto.

“Fine, I'll get replacements.”

“Replacements?” Currently Seina had 7 assistants. They were all talented, but Jurai and the academy had many talented people who could replace them. But only one – – Kiriko couldn't be changed. Her long history with Seina ensured her position.

“Hah ... you can do that for the rest of us ... but good luck getting rid of Kiriko.”

“Uhm what about Kiriko's mother ...”

“Right, and Mikami and Kuisu and Minaho would love to take your place, I have several others I can think of as well.”

“Maybe you can replace us in missions but you can't replace the spot we have with him in his private life.”

“I wouldn't be so sure of that ... That being said, the current set up we have now is the most ideal and I think you have a good point ... I just wanted to see you squirm for a bit.” Seto said becoming serious.

“Ms. Seto, now that you're done having fun messing with the girls don't you think it would be best to address their concerns?” Neiju said.

“Yes. What did you find out about Seina's power?”

“Well, at the very least it is not the same as my own abilities, Seina's consciousness doesn't seem to have much influence in determining the flow of events.”

“Well that's one hypothesis down. Did you find out anything else?”

“There are defiantly other factors in play, but nothing all that simple: whatever it is, it had nothing to do with conscious decisions by Seina.”

“Well, then what does it have to do with ...”

“I don't know yet ... But at the very least it's not worth keeping Seina under strict control.”

“I see, so what do you plan to do now.”

“Well now that my assassins have been wiped out and my growth has been unfrozen, I think I should be going back home.” Neiju said.

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A large-sized container ship was moored at the large dock. The outside looked just like a container ship, but its interior was a first-class armored ship equipped with functions similar to a first-class mobile hotel built for VIPs.

“Neiju, sorry for causing you such trouble.”

“No, I can go back to my country with confidence now, thanks to you big brother. But I'm sad that I have to part with Fuku ...” Fuku was sleeping in the waiting room now.

They judged it better for her not to see Neiju give her goodbyes.

“I'll make sure we meet again. Till then you can always call me in your free time.”

“Oh that's right, well then, please give me a call when you arrive home safely.”

“Okay! Oh that reminds me ... Brother ... I have a favor to ask of you ...” Neiju said and she looked a bit shy.

“Yes? What is it, if there's anything you'd like I'll try and do it for you.”

“Well then, when I get bigger, will you marry me?” It was a very innocent request for Seina, but to Kiriko and the others it had a tremendous meaning.

(That ... That lolibitch ... What is she up to?) The other girls grew angry.

“Oh big brother! What's the matter?” Neiju was obviously upset as she looked at Seina who began to cry. “Did I make an unreasonable request? I'm Sorry ... I, just ...”

“... That's the first time ... A girl has ever told me such a thing ...”

“Eh?”

“Well, I guess it can't be helped then, I can't exactly say no, ha ha.”

“Big brother ...”

“Well ... It's not like she will ever leave Melmas again.” Amane said to Kiriko who gave a small nod.

“.....” to that extent Kiriko and the others were relieved.

About twenty minutes later, a container ship for carrying Neiju arrived to take her home to Melmas and the issue of Neiju marrying Seina when she grew up was concluded.

Chapter Seven: Fuku · Struggle

One of the huge residential areas within the Kamidake contained a huge floating bath facility made of the same material as Ryo-Ohki's and Kamidake's crystals. The complicated and intricate structure was like an amusement park, its shape was changeable by moving the walls in blocks. It was possible to partition it from a single bath to a hundred of them.

They had found the gate to this large bath when they "explored" Seina's home in the Kamidake with Kiriko.

"This is the size of my grandfather's mansion," Amane said when she found it.

The ceilings were so high that it was reminiscent of a European cathedral. The bath facility could move to any of four huge spaces, and now it was floating above the mountainous areas in the winter section. Of course, because there was a shield function, Seina was able to enjoy bathing while watching the scenery spread out in front of him without being affected by the cold.

Seina was taking a bath with Fuku when they got a distress signal.

When Seina got to the bridge the crew was already in battle mode against a pirate ship. Kamidake was currently disguised as a small container ship.

"Miaa ~~" Fuku said with an uneasy voice.

"Fuku, it's all right, don't be scared." Fuku perked up.

"Enemy ship firing! It a warning shot!" Erma said as the attack passed by bow of Kamidake.

"Mya!" Fuku's body stiffened reflexively. Her facial expression was already distorted, and she had teary eyes.

"It's only one ship ... Calm down!"

"Mya! Mia!" Fuku stared at Amane who scolded her.

As Amane looked away at a monitor, another attack launched from the enemy ship and passed close to the Kamidake, Fuku froze up like a stone.

"The link with the ship is suddenly dropping!" The next moment, all the monitors on the bridge disappeared.

"Switch to pattern B!" Kiriko's orders were carried out quickly, the monitors and controls returned, they were now under attack by the enemy ship and their camouflage was disappearing.

"Mia! Miaaaaaaa!!" Fuku jumped into Seina's lap and began to cry while trembling.

"Our ships camouflage is gone ..."

"The enemy ships jumping away from us!" Erma raised her voice to yell over Amane's voice.

“Damn it! They escaped!” Amane said, angrily leaning back deeply into her chair.

“It's no wonder they jumped ... Any idiot could recognize this ships as being similar to that of Ryo-Ohki.” The crystal used for the exterior matched that of Ryo-Ohki.

“Well ... At least they ran away, the last thing we need right now is enemies collecting information on this ship before we master using it.” Kiriko sighed and stared at Fuku who was busy hugging Seina.

“Well, we still have plenty of time to find more pirates. Let's get the systems back online and go back to work ...”

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A couple of hours later, a violent fireworks display of lasers rained down upon the disguised Kamidake once more. However, the flashy barrage of attacks did not significantly damage Kamidake's shield.

“Well ... At least all the ships attacking us are under powered pieces of junk.” Amane looked puzzled at the monitor in front of her. The display told her that all of the weapons control systems were in an unusable state. “It's a good thing this disguise is only luring out low ranked Space Pirates, this could be quite a serious problem if we were up against anything worse.”

Everyone on the bridge gazed at Seina and Fuku, who was crying.

“Mia! Miah! Mia Ann!!”

“Energy output has lowered! The link value with the hull is below the lowest value we've ever read before, I'm switching all operations to manual!”

“Should we just ditch them?”

“Even if they're low ranking Space Pirates, a pirate is a pirate, I think we should stay and arrest them ...” Seina quickly glanced at Fuku who was crying.

“Well, then I'll try to make this a quick and easy victory ...”

“Please do.”

“Okay! Removing camouflage!” Kiriko said as Kamidake's camouflage was removed. When they noticed its appearance however the pirates quickly fled.

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After the Kamidake docked back at the academy, Seina and Fuku headed back.

“It's ok Fuku. You can't win every time. Don't let it bother you.” Seina told her.

“Mew ...” Fuku looked depressed as she curled up in Seina's arms. Even though she was still essentially a newborn, she was fully aware that she had done poorly. The consolation she had received from the crew wasn't going to change the mood she was in so easily.

“Welcome home,” Hakuren and her team surrounded them as they welcomed Seina home. They were dressed as maids and had been reassigned to work at Amane's apartment as before.

“Fuku, welcome home,” Karen, who noticed Fuku's mood led the charge to greet Fuku as well to cheer her up. Their cheerfulness did the trick.

“Please come this way, we have already prepared a bath for you.” The girls escorted them to the bath.

After the bathhouse was damaged by Seiryo being launched out of it, the facilities were remodeled and it now had two dressing rooms separated by gender. But there was still no partition in the bathroom. Seina mostly used a small tub that was sectioned off by some decorative plants.

Although, since he had acquired Fuku, it was normal for all the girls to join him as he bathed. Having them there concerned Seina but he knew that having Fuku there would keep anything weird from happening. They kept to their section, mostly and were distracted by Fuku's presence.

Even so, Seina was tense and conscious of being in the same bath as Kiriko. Especially because recently due to his enhanced Bio-Enhancement he found that if he closed his eyes he could visualize the reverberation of things like a bat. So anything around him he could perceive stereoscopically with his eyes closed even though it was only vague. It was seeing a blurred nude of everyone covered in steam and that caused various serious problems for Seina.

“Miyaaaa!”

Fuku jumped into the part of the bath Seina was in to escape the women who had gotten a bit rowdy.

Seina slowly stroked her head to calm her down.

“Fuku-chan ~ ~ come back! Let's play ~ ~!”

“Mya, Mya ~ ~ ~ ♡” Fuku responded to being called back by the women and happily ran back to their side.

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“... It's a shame that we have such a powerful ship but can't make any use of it yet.” After bathing and finishing eating, Kiriko and others were relaxing in the living room.

“I guess we're just going to have to wait for Fuku to mature ...” Amane complained ... She noticed that Seina was sitting awkwardly.

“Hey, Seina, what's wrong Seina ...?”

“Where's Fuku-chan ...” He asked.

Karen pointed to Gyokuren who was busy hugging her as Fuku's tail wagged.

“She's gotten used to her, they're finally hugging.”

Gyokuren smiled happily. It was a gentle, straightforward smile that was rare for her. Gyokuren was somewhat scary and intimidatingly decadent but she had a beautiful appearance, and in this moment Gyokuren seemed genuinely attractive to Seina. The usual feeling he got from her was a sort of mild terror, like one would feel when encountering a genuine god. It was like she had changed from encountering a demon to a moon goddess, and surely everyone else felt it too.

Amane sighed a little. “Whew ... Well, I guess that's a little progress ...”

Amane was the first to recover from the trap of Gyokuren’s attractive presence. Her words snapped Kiriko and Erma back to reality.

“Both pirates and Gyokuren are the same in the sense that they are instinctive fears for Fuku, but in this case, Gyokuren only wants to play with her.” Kiriko said ... hinting that maybe she thought she could change Fuku's fear of pirates if she made her look at it from a different angle but the other girls didn't notice.

“I realize her potential is high but she seems unreliable ... Don't you think the former Kamidake was better in terms of reliability?”

“The Old Kamidake? Well ... I don't see why that should matter.”

“What? Do you want to see about switching back?”

“No, I'm saying maybe we should move towards making the ship completely manual.” Kiriko said talking low so that Seina couldn't hear her. She didn't want to upset Fuku or Seina.

“Oh that might work. After all it is best technology you can get even without Fuku. I think we should work on it.”

“Let's start first thing tomorrow. Erma, would you borrow the equipment from Airi's studio for me?”

“Airi-san's studio is the fastest way to get this done, but I'd have to explain the circumstances to Airi-sama, it's too expensive of a matter to keep secret, I think I can manage it ... But she might be opposed to this plan.”

“What, why?”

“Because Airi is a philosopher, there is a possibility that we won't be able to master the functions on our own ... The Kamidake is very complex.”

“That's something Airi-sama is likely to say, but it is certain that there are many unstable factors when using Fuku, and Seina's biased probability bias adds to it, so it can't be helped now, can it?”

“Well, I guess things won't wait until she can master her abilities, there is no choice but to find a substitute.”

“Would we be able to do it without Airi?”

“I could ask some people I know back from human hunting, we’re going to need some very sophisticated equipment, although not nearly as sophisticated as Airi's studio.”

“Those people are dubious at best. Is it really a good idea getting them involved with helping Seina?”

“Shit ... Well, I guess it could be, but luckily for us they already got his data.”

“We’re going to have to do this quickly ... Let's make a list of things we need right away.”

With that, Kiriko sent a small sign to Hakuren, and pretended to go to the kitchen so that Seina wouldn't notice them, and they headed to Amane's room.

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Chapter Eight: Troublemaker and Legend

Komachi Kyo came with a man to a tavern where space pirates went to meet.

“A ship very similar to Ryo-Ohki ... Is this reliable information?” Komachi leaned against the water filled sofa with a rough appearance and downed some sake that was poured for her. The water sofa leaned up against a fish tank filled with colorful fish.

“We have it on video, I think there is no mistaking it.”

Around the area where Komachi was, there were men who seemed to be executives. The monitor displayed by one of them showed the appearance of the Kamidake.

“It certainly looks like the same material, but ...” She understood that it was a special ship, but the video was less than flattering at showing off its skills.

“That's what it is, and we have informants who can confirm that it's Seina Yamada's ship.”

“What?” Komachi was quick to distrust him.

“They’re deserters from the GP and the Kamidake's crew ...”

“Well then, where are they?”

“Thank you for waiting ~ ~” Alan dressed as a waiter brought them a dish.

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“Has Ryo-Ohki and Jurai made contact?”

“Hehehehe, yes, and while it is unrelated, it seems Ryo-Ohki's computer core body is a little girl, and she seems to be acquainted with Seina Yamada.” Alan said in an odd way that one's underling would when presenting them with information.

On both sides of him, Barry and Cohen, who also wore waiter's clothes, stood and remained silent.

“I am familiar with that knowledge ...”

“The Kamidake was in an irreparable state when we got to Jurai, there's no way they could have repaired it in such a short period of time, and it's easy to tell this is a similar kind of ship.”

“So, you were on that ship when it got to Jurai, but you didn't get to see anything else?”

“Yes, but it was easy to infer. The ship we were on had many advanced features, even if it was only a decoy ship, I think that this new one most likely has them as well.”

“I see.” Komachi nodded at Alan's explanation.

“But, how do you explain the poor performance of this new ship?”

“Huh! It's the Kamidake, come on.”

“Why do you say that?”

“They are stupid people. There's nothing more to explain.”

“I see.” Komachi said as she sighed. No doubt she thought that Alan was underselling his own contributions to the crew’s stupidity. (If what he said is true, it might not just be a problem with their ship-handling technique, maybe it's some sort of system problem? Ryo-Ohki's computer core's appearance may also be related this ...)

“And, by the way, Ms. Komachi, would you hire us? Even if doesn't seem like it, we are experienced in battle. We've even survived meeting Tarrant ... It would mean more to us then you could imagine ...” Alan lowered his voice and smiled. “And we have various other information ...”

”Okay! Fine! Hey you!” Komachi interrupted Alan and invited a subordinate over. “Please show these guys to the ship, treat them carefully.”

“Thank you very much for your help! I will try to be of assistance, Hee hee!”

“Come with us!”

The man dragged Alan away as he tried to rub against Komachi and two others came and escorted Barry and Cohen.

“I don't understand why those two are friends with that guy, he is a bad apple. Of course, you can't tell that at first glance.”

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The subordinate who was next to Alan looked at him unpleasantly. “We’re keeping you quarantined. We need to keep what you know secret.”

“Well surely.”

“This information is a bit dangerous ... We don't want it getting out to the rest of the Guild. If it's known that ship belongs to that boy it will only increase the number of people that get caught in the GP's miserable trap,” the other subordinate said.

“But I've already heard it rumored about, here and there.”

“As long as there are no solid sources of the information, then it's just a rumor.”

“But aren't you glad that that it wiped out a bunch of Tarrant's forces?”

The men dropped their voices and whispered. “You know I am.”

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“I was amazed at the reappearance of Ryo-Ohki, this new ship seems to be the same type of ship ...” The elderly man who came with Komachi took a drink.

The re-appearance of Ryo-Ohki, who was believed to have been destroyed by the crown prince of Jurai, came as a big shock to the Space Pirates, and rumors had spread quickly.

“But why is Ryo-Ohki, who attacked Jurai, suddenly friendly with Jurai?”

“I don't know much, but it may be because of that woman Ryoko rather than Ryo-Ohki ... She worked for a man named Kagato who specialized in ruins and archaeological things before they attacked Jurai. Even so ... There are rumors that they were actually aiming to capture a royal ship that was said to be the founder of the others.”

“The founder?”

“Well you know how there are first generation, and second generation royal ships? It's assumed that what they were seeking was something above the first generation.”

“Oh, I see. So, was Kagato the one who built the Ryo-Ohki?”

“That is a mystery ... But, what kind of person do you think the person who could build a ship that can fight equally with a royal ship is?”

“What kind of person are they? ... Probably a scientist ... Oh, someone from the Academy!”

“Yes! And yet, no one has ever published anything about a ship even remotely equal to Ryo-Ohki. The most likely possibility is that it was probably made by Washu Hakubi, the number one philosopher from the academy who went missing, but for now it's just a theory.”

“So, maybe Kagato is an employee of Hakubi Washu?”

“I doubt it, Ryo-Ohki has been missing with the Prince of Jurai for several hundred years, during which Kagato seems to have acted alone.”

“Well, if he was the one who built it, then couldn't he make as many as he wanted?”

“Well that's true, I wonder if he needed some kind of special material ... By the way.” The elderly man said as he displayed a picture of a woman who was friendly with Washu Hakubi. “You've heard of her, haven't you? The woman here with Washu? This is Naja Akara.”

“Naja Akara? Oh, I have heard of her, but I can't recall how ... She didn't leave much of an impression.”

“Well ... Naja was mostly known for her supporting role in Washu's research and since she died five thousand years ago, it's unavoidable that she has not left much of an impression ... But before Naja went missing, she donated her patents along with the profits from them to the Academy, you'd be amazed to hear how much it was.” The elderly man said proudly.

“Was it that large an amount?”

“Well, the Academy's earnings are said to be dozens of times that of Jurai and Seniwa. The patent earnings from Naja seem to have accounted for about 4% of last year's entire income and expenditure report.”

“Get out! ... Are you kidding me? That would be over a quarter of Jurai or Seniwa's national budget!?”

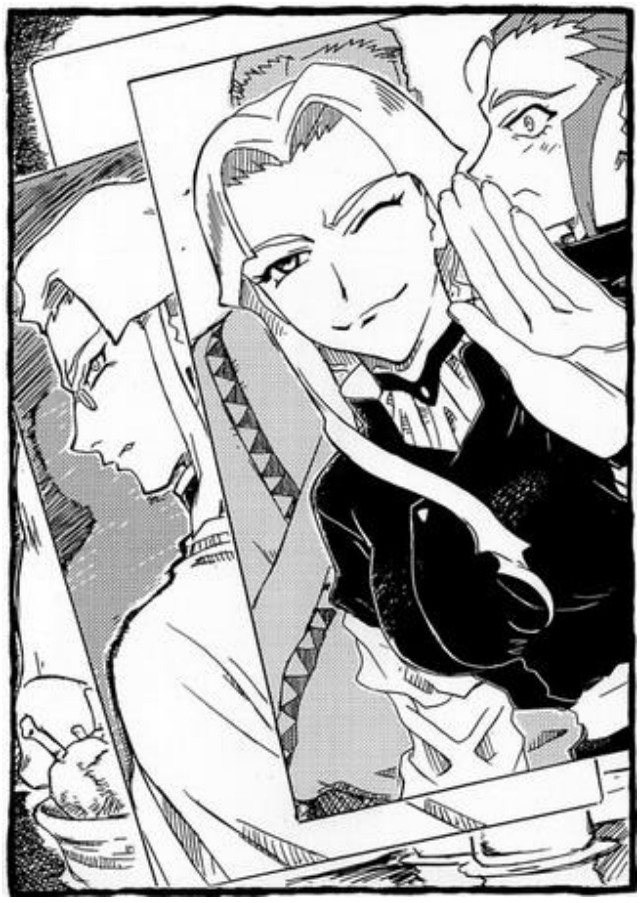
“Yes, and it is part of why their national budget is so absurdly high.”

Komachi sat silently in surprise.

“Washu holds the largest number of patents held by a philosopher, second place is Naja.”

“... So what? Does Akara Naja have something to do with this story?”

“Oh, I'm sorry ... I got derailed ... I want you to compare her with this with the picture.” The elderly man displayed another picture of a man and arranged it with Naja's.



“This is a picture of Kagato ... What do you notice?”

“... They’re similar, maybe they’re family?” Komachi, looked at the picture then looked over the faces of the other executives.

The executives nodded to agree with Komachi's opinion.

“The Academy has officially denied it, but as a result of comparing the skeletal and voice data extracted from the video, it seems that the possibility of him being her brother or father is high.”

“If the manufacturer of Ryo-Ohki is assumed to be Washu, it's possible that Kagato only helped make Ryo-Ohki ... Of course there's also the possibility that Akara Naja got a sex change before she helped create Ryo-Ohki Isn't there?”

“There is another mystery out there, besides the person named Kagato ...”

The next picture displayed was Washu, an elderly man and a baby.

“What is this picture? I've seen that man somewhere.”

“The bank.”

“Ah! That's the founder of the MMD.” The youngest executive said.

“Correct, but what do you know about the founder of the MMD?”

“Perhaps he should have thought about making us members?” The Executives laughed at the same time. But it was not a joke because all executives sort of wished for that someday.

“Well, we will see how things go in the future.” The elderly man said gently.

Many people had dealings with the Galactic Federation and Of course, those who didn't belong to the Galactic Federation couldn't officially become members, but would become back end member of the MMD with a recommendation of another member. So becoming a back end member was a type of status symbol even among the space pirates. Komachi was one of those back end members.

“Well, this man named Ikuma was a top philosopher of the Academy and a teacher of Washu and was Naja's teacher before Washu came ... Oh, although I have to add an explanation before that, in one picture Naja is with Washu ... These next pictures were taken later not before ...” The Elderly man displayed different pictures one by one like a slide show.

Among them, Ikuma remained, and the baby who was a girl gradually developed.

“That baby ... Is that Naja Akara!?”

“No, wait, she was with Hakubi Washu in the first photo.”

“When you show the pictures in a row it seems that the baby and that woman are the same person?

“... That child is the daughter of Akara Naja?”

“Although it seems to be, there is no confirmation. The private life style of these philosophers have many parts enveloped in mystery, but still it seems that Naja managed to live a quite conspicuous existence. So from the student newspapers of that time and from personal correspondence we have some records of various things, but there no rumors or records of who Naja's lover might have been, or that she was pregnant, nothing was ever rumored, even about this baby, Washu seems to have left this girl with Professor Ikuma and we don't know why that seems to have happened.”

“So this mysterious daughter ... How does this relate to the rest of the story?”

“Actually, this girl's name is Kagato ...”

“What! But they don't look alike in either appearance or sex.” The Young executives turned their heads to compare the images.

“It may have been done intentionally ... or even ceremonially?”

“But the same name means that the likelihood of them being the same person is high doesn't it?”

“Although it could be a pseudonym, the possibility is high as it is the same name.”

“Actually, Kagato the man is quite famous with the GP. Many of their encounters with him are recorded in great detail ...” The elderly man displayed detailed information on the incident of Kagato that had been extracted from the GP database.

“Oh! This guy is a pretty famous isn't he! He comes up a lot if you are a person interested in history.” An executive said, excited when he saw the article.

“That reminds me, I seem to remember Kagato was the one that destroyed those planets and the GP fleet who came to rescue the executive officials from the Alliance.”

“Oh, I also remember that story, those involved where badly disciplined, they were doing some pretty bad crimes, it was an undeveloped planet.”

“That man Kagato had no previous history of his life prior to that, and Ryo-Ohki appeared after the male Kagato appeared. But the clues to what went on there disappeared with the planet that was destroyed.”

“Is this related to Washu?”

“That's right! There was a special ecosystem there. Washu seems to have used it as a research facility.”

“But that's Biology ... And philosophy is just field of study for making dubious inventions.”

“You Idiot! A philosopher means a person who comprehensively uses various research techniques and studies to make new inventions and methods of use, so you have to become familiar with and a master of everything. Philosopher is just another name for genius.”

“Well, maybe they were building Ryo-Ohki there?”

“Ryo-Ohki is a type of living spaceship, that possibility is high. We would need to know what the special ecosystem was like, but the planet itself has exploded and the material remains a mystery ... Although we do know that the daughter of Akara Naja had grown up in quite a short period of time, there was testimony that she was there as an assistant to Washu.”

“She was also on the planet that disappeared ...?” Komachi asked.

The elderly man nodded.

“Well ... There are many unknown things that happened, but they certainly hint at things.”

“It's up to you whether you believe it or not.”

“How do we know this isn't just made up?”

The old man laughed. “... C'mon, I'm not going to sit here and make fake photos and give you a long speech about an urban legend. This information was provided by a philosopher who specialized in researching Washu and Naja.”

“So what? Even a philosopher can spread tall tales.”

“Since Hakubi Washu is a super celebrity that most people know, there are also a lot of researchers specializing in her, so most of the information so far has been backed up, but Hakubi Washu building Ryo-Ohki is just a guess I'm making based on the circumstances.”

“Well, then I don't see how it's any different from an urban legend.”

“Oh! Haha, that reminds me I searched the Academy's homepage now, it said that the number of sightings of Washu in the academy has recently increased, but that's just an urban legend, too.” One of the young executives said.

“But when it comes to sighting a ship similar to Ryo-Ohki, we have video and accounts so it's a credible story.”

“It's an odd story when you consider ... Ryo-Ohki contacted Jurai, I wonder what's going on ...”

“It's worrisome that the sightings of Washu at the Academy and the resurrection of Ryo-Ohki are occurring simultaneously.”

“Oh! Speaking of Ryo-Ohki, did you hear about the recent rumors about Kagato's other ship.”

“Yeah, that's right ... In the database a few years ago was the last time that the Souja was sighted. After that nothing has been heard from him. Our guilds and the GP have had no encounters. If Ryo-Ohki has been resurrected, you'd think there would have been some movement. And Ryoko hasn't shown up even though Ryo-Ohki has.”

“Certainly, and they said that Ryo-Ohki has a core body of young girl.”

“If that's … What if Ryoko is gone and only Ryo-Ohki remains, what if she made contact with Jurai and brought that other ship.”

“There is a possibility, but how would it be possible for it to build a similar ship without Hakubi Washu?”

(... Ryoko ... What are you doing?) Komachi suddenly remembered Ryoko Balta who had the same name as Ryoko.

Komachi knew the relationship between Ryoko and Erma. She also knew of Ryoko Balta's survival. Of course her higher ups and Tarrant probably knew too, but since Ryoko had faked her death when she was ordered to assassinate Seina, there was no way to announce her survival right now without her being treated as a traitor. Her crew who had been held hostage and their families were already under the protection of Jurai.

If knowledge of using Ryoko as a pawn and holding her crew and their family's hostage got out it would cause a wave of distrust in the Guild. Regardless of the power struggle and the offenders behind it, the majority of those belonging to the Guild, even if they were Space Pirates, would take the side of the Galactic Federation on this issue, as they were human beings first and foremost, even if the Guild was like the country they belonged to.

(I have to get in contact with her ... She'll know what is going on.) But Ryoko was now on the side of the enemy. Moreover, she had a close relationship with Seina Yamada. It would not be easy for her to explain the facts, and if Komachi didn't handle it right, it had the potential to compromise Ryoko's position at the academy.

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“... Well, apparently, that boy's origin are the same as Jurai's first Empress ...”

“Yeah, what if the mother of the crown prince was who Ryo-Ohki was going to see ...?” The elderly man began to theorize on a whim. “If the missing Ryo-Ohki was on the planet of the first Emperor's sister ... What if Ryoko was defeated and only the hull remained ...?”

“What are you trying to say?”

“The fact that Seina Yamada is a member of an early civilization who came up to space as a special case may be because of Ryo-Ohki. Maybe at the same time Ryo-Ohki was discovered, they discovered Seina Yamada and his unique ability. And they brought the two of them to the Academy as research material, it fits with the official story.”

“Does that mean they're working on more as weapons ...?”

“They already have so much power.”

“That boy is a practically a weapon ... Oh ...” Komachi remembered what was happening when she first met Seina, she changed her expression. “Ahahaha! You think that boy is a weapon? He's a little boy, and he’s no weapon.”

“Do you know something we don't or is that just your intuition?”

“I just know.” Komachi said. The elderly man also relaxed his expression.

The trust that Komachi's subordinates had for her was enormous. She had a highly accurate intuition and her judgment of other's personalities was excellent.

“Haha, if your head says so, it must be so. So that's something to be thankful for.”

“No, I know for a fact. It's a funny story, but let's keep on topic. Making assumptions is dangerous if we don't have accurate information.”

“By the way, what about the person who helped provide you that information?”

“He's a problem ... I hate having to keep guard of him.”

“Haha, are you talking about Seiryo?”

“... Really, he's exhausting. I now know why they say that the Academy has never made a law without an exception for a Tennan.” Komachi shuddered with her fist clasped. Komachi felt the same way about him that Amane did. But as their prisoner, she was not able to respond to him the same way as Amane, so she was pretty stressed.

“Why don't you just do with him what you did with those guys earlier? He seems like he would make a good fit for them and take to steering the reins of those horses quite naturally.”

“Do you really want to be associated with that guy?” For a moment, Komachi imagined it and suddenly burst into laughter till she nearly passed out. In her head Alan and his two cronies were flamboyantly humbling themselves before Seiryo, who obviously accepted it and got his ego worked up from it. Besides, Alan and his friends would be good combination with Seiryo that was not only convenient but also vitally needed.

“Ahahaha ... That's not a bad idea actually.” Komachi happily said.

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Alan's group were brought to Komachi's ship and taken to the bottom floor from the central elevator. It was a place with many rooms in a circle around the elevator.

“Your room is here.” One of the guards unlocked the room and opened the door.

“Is this for real!?” Alan hesitated for a moment but stopped himself.

The entire floor was quite beautiful, at first glance it seemed to be the pirate's residential area, but the interior seen from the door was dull and without furniture, and judging from the expression of the man opening the door, Alan thought that it was a prison.

“Put them in quickly!” Two crewmen who were accompanying them quickly pushed Alan's group inside.

“What?! What is this?!” They shut the door in Alan's panicked face. The front of the door became transparent, and behind it the pirates were watching Alan with a smiles and grins.

“Explain this! We are guests!”

“Don't panic. You are here because you're a guest.”

“This is one of the better rooms here we have for our guests.”

“Stop Stop Stop! I'm going to become a subordinate of Komachi! And I was a crew member of the Kamidake! I have a lot of important information to give you and you treat me like this!”

“Are you saying you want a room change?” The man asked.

“Yes and I would like for you to treat me more carefully.”

“I’m surprised, I wouldn't want to forsake the good fortune of being put in his room.”

“Here, good luck? What do you mean by that?” Alan's asked.

“If you are a from the crew of Kamidake, that makes you an enemy, and if you are an affiliate of that Seina Yamada guy then there are a lot of pirates here with petty grudges. How much do you think your information will be useful against people who want to smash your head in? We can't let you die.”

“Well, that's uh ...” They all turned pale. Alan hid behind Cohen it as if to shield himself.

“In such a situation, the number of people who can guarantee your safety is limited.”

“Does that include Komachi ...?”

“She isn't one to hold a grudge, she's the one who arranged this for us right?” Cohen said. Alan sent a glare back at Cohen, the two sat down and upright nervously.

“We checked our information network for your personal information.”

“Huh!?”

“Your work aptitude and grades at the GP sucked, your Ryoko Balta fan club ended with you broke and in debt. The Kamidake crew only took you in because they'd take anyone and even then they didn't want you. You were demoted to trainees for double crossing them and then you bailed on them.

“I'd like to point out we were demoted for trying to help your side out.”

“It is not our fault! We were deceived Seina's NB! We were used!”

“Only an idiot would make you their subordinate.”

“Then why are we here, why didn't you stick us with the angry Space Pirates, huh?”

“We were just told to quarantine you and quickly... What do you have, a mental disorder or something? You’re in no place to bargain... Although, you do have a surprisingly high bounty from the GP on your head for your return so that is always an option.”

“Well then ... I'll pay you double the bounty!”

“Did you exchange your money before coming here?”

“Yes, and I did it on their behalf too, here look.” Alan said.

“... Wait is that where all my money went?!” Cohen looked for his money.

“So I wonder why he was working over there, I don’t know how much money I have, but surely here it is worth several times that value. But in any case, Galactic Federation certifies this point money. Because if it is not, you will pay many times and exchange on the back.”

“The rate is different!?”

“In other words, paying twice the amount of your prize money would require you to have five times more than what you have right now.”

“Five times more?!”

“You Monsters! ~~~!!”

“You guys agreed to come here!”

The pirates outside their room began to argue with them. The pirates laughed as Alan tried to bargain with them until ... Bang! They hit the wall to stop Alan's rambling.

“Okay, we’re going to go back up to see whether they decide to use you elsewhere or to send you back. Stay here quietly for a while.” That said, the pirates left and got on the elevator.

The cylindrical elevator unit was completely stored on the upper floor and control from their floor was impossible, so they were completely isolated.

“Ours is such a difficult struggle. No matter what happens, our debt is just increasing every day ...”

“Oh and that reminds me ...” Barry and Cohen glared at Alan. However, Alan backed up into a corner.

“Calm down, me paying them your money was a joke ... I was trying to get in his head.”

“Oh, is that's right?”

“Besides I didn't steal it. I plan to pay you back with 30% from the prize money they pay the pirates and then we will double cross them and defect back to the pirates.”

“Is that so ... It seems to me you have even less then you stole from us ...”

“Wait, the GP is used to dealing with Space Pirates, what if they pay them in space pirate money.”

“Yeah, there's a difference in rates!”

“That's right! Which means we will be paid 5 times as much! We would be stupid not to return and then come back! Our debts will be reduced 5x more! In addition, there are lots of Seina's enemies around with a grudge against Seina like us. Don't forget, it was because of him that we were demoted, all because we disobeyed him.”

“You can say that but ...”

“Seina's cruelty caused us to try to escape. We are his victims, just like the pirates!”

“……I see.”

As usual Alan's convenient logic had convinced both Barry and Cohen who nodded as they were convinced.

And Alan kept talking as he sat down with his legs folded. “With that we can buy some sympathy, even if we have to work extremely hard for a while, is it far better than any option we have back at the GP. And if we show them our real power as a team there is no doubt that we will move up before you know it.”

“I see, and my salary will rise if we do so too ...”

“And I'll get a woman, a good woman, Wahahahahahahahahaha!” The three idiots began laughing to themselves in their prison.

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Alan's Intel was brought by a pirate to Tarrant.

“So, is that what they were going on about?”

“Yes sir, it seems that Komachi has taken the informant back to her ship, but she did bring him through to the executive meeting. What should we do?” the adjutant was new and was terribly afraid to ask.

“If Komachi has them isolated, then that is convenient for us. Dispose of them so that information won't spread any further.”

“Ha ha! Yes, I will do that immediately.” The aide got out of the room as fast as possible to escape Tarrant.

“Seina Yamada ...” Tarrant took out the knife that Seina had stabbed him with and distorted his expression with hatred as he threw a knife that stabbed some pictures of Seina and Kirche.

“Gaaah!” Tarrant stood up and pulled out the knife. The handle was scratched and torn up but the blade was still sharp. He had decided to use it on Seina himself. But his anger wasn't enough for just Seina. Only one thing turned Tarrant's anger in another direction and that was thinking about the appearance of Kiriko, a female the same kind of person as him confronting him with the eyes of a wild beast. “Uhuhuhuhuh! UHUHUHUHUHU!”

Tarrant's anger turned to ecstasy and excitement when he remembered Kiriko's bloody image, still vividly burned in his mind. He imagined laying on top of her, holding her in his arms and violating her to his heart's content, Tarrant felt an overwhelming sense of pleasure.

After about 30 minutes had passed, Tarrant, dripping with sweat and breathing heavily, slumped down on the sofa. Tarrant took a deep breath to calm himself down as he leaned against a hole in the sofa.

* * * **Translators' note: I don't know how to translate this. I'm like 100% sure Tarrant just slashed a hole in his sofa and fucked it, in as much of a not saying that's what he did way as possible. Seeing as how I'm pretty sure he was fucking dead corpses in his first appearance this isn't that big of a stretch for me to assume. Novel Tarrant is so fucking different and like, way more fucked up ... I love it. * * ***

Tarrant, whose feelings had settled took a deep breath and opened a private hot line.

"I ... Please upload that ship's information to the database. There is a possibility that Seina Yamada is involved ... Oh, that was completed ... OK! Get it ready right away." Tarrant said as he listening to the report from the person on the other end.

He looked at a desolate desert planet visible from his dome-shaped ceiling when communication was ended. It was the place where the scientists who escaped the satellite attacked by Miki had fled to.

"Uhuhuhuhu ... Soon ... Soon!"

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Komachi finished the meeting with the executives and went back to her room on her ship. However she had on her mind something that was causing her to worry and that something was a thing that couldn't be said in front of the executives.

Komachi opened the data she had gotten from the old man and gazed at it. It may have been unnoticed by the other executives but she noticed something else about Kagato and Akara Naja.

"... It's so similar." Her monitor displayed an image of Kamiki Seto titled "Demon Princess of Jurai" and displayed next to it a picture of Washu Hakubi as an adult.

However, it was confusing to Komachi ... "But ... what else could it be ... besides that...!?"

Komachi desperately stared at a picture of Naja Akara acting the fool beside Washu. She displayed a simple profile of Hakubi Washu, Akara Naja, and Kamiki Seto, from the data bank that her elderly informant had given her.

"Are there any words common to these three people ...?" She wondered.

The search results were displayed in a blink of an eye. Even so, quite a few results were displayed, but only one of them attracted Komachi's eyes - the name of a planet that no longer existed.

“... An explosion on this planet killed Naja Akara who was there to investigate it. On that same day, Seto Kamiki was rescued there.”

It was a fact that affirmed Komachi's speculation even more. She had spoken to people about it before but most people laughed it off as being purely coincidental, but Seto and Komachi talked quite frequently, even if it was only through video calls, so she knew her better than most people. However, the idea that Seto was also Naja both confused Komachi and made her feel intense fear.

Komachi had looked for the existence of evidence that would support her theory. However, only stories of the male named Kagato and the female named Kagato, spoken by elderly informants, were scattered around here and there. No matter where she looked for stories to affirm her theories, she couldn't find even a single piece of evidence.

“... Damn it!!” Komachi exclaimed as she felt even more fear than she had felt earlier, a cold sweat ran down her forehead. The only thing that could reasonably be going on was that either no one had noticed anything at all about the subject over the years or that somehow that someone had covered up all the facts.

“– – – Hey, are you alright?” A familiar voice said through Komachi's communications system.

Komachi fell out of her chair in surprise. A cold sweat broke out all over her body and her heart beat faster. It was the voice of the absolute last person she wanted to see at the moment.

“Uhm ... Why do you ask!?”

Although it was only her voice, it was clear that the hot line with Seto had been opened.

“What's wrong? You sound upset... And you opened the communication line, is there a problem?”

“I opened the communication line!? ... I didn't even notice that ... Have you been listening for quite a while? Well then ... Uhm ... Well I was just looking at something that seemed very interesting...” And with that Komachi resolved to go ahead and ask her.

(I might as well. What's the worst that could happen, besides it costing me my own life?) Komachi thought to herself. Komachi finally got up despite her trembling legs, and wiped the sweat of her face and opened the hot line completely. Seto appeared as a projected picture and she was smiling a big smile.

“There is something I'd like to ask.” She said in a gentle, not at all intimidated tone. “... Well, I heard some funny stories from the guys who we captured from GP, more specifically from the

former Kamidake crew, and it seems to be related to a ship that seemed to have come through here a while ago."

"Oh? What is the status of the former Kamidake crew?"

"They are being held under my protection here. If you want, I can arrange to have them handed back over to you, of course that is only if you exchange them with our people."

"If that is the case, please keep onto them for about a week or so. After that, we can talk about negotiations."

One week was how long it would take for the confidential knowledge Alan had to no longer be relevant.

"Certainly, I understand. It would be better for you not to let that boy stay around those idiots anymore."

"Aha ha. So, are you feeling calmer now? What else would you like to ask? I will answer anything you want. But before I do let me just say that what you were looking at just now was nearly correct."

"What!" Although it was poorly affirmed, Komachi unexpectedly broke from her calm expression. She thought that this was the equivalent of being sentenced to a death sentence as soon as her trial had begun.

"... Ahh! Let me explain before you end me."

"End you? Oops, do I really come off as that cold blooded?"

"Well you are "The Devil Princess of Jurai"."

"I am not planning to conceal what you have found and separately, finding it doesn't mean that you are in any trouble. I can understand how you feel confused. In any case, I was also confused when I first arrived at the same question myself."

"Question? What do you mean?"

"I had sealed my memories. But recently that has been resolved ... but it was a big problem until then. I always wondered why? Why? ... "

"Why did you seal your memories?"

"The reasons are a private matter I won't comment on. Of course, there are quite a few people who had noticed it and other things, but ... Well, much like you young lady, I guess they thought I would erase it from their mouths. But it's true, it's a terrible story." Seto said.

"Hakubi Washu is also rumored to be alive." Komachi added.

“Well, I made that a planet wide rumor on the Academy. But it's true since she went missing she has created both Ryo-Ohki and that ship. But she has no plans to mass-produce them, which is a relief. Oh, and Ryoko is also alive by the way ... What is the matter?” Seto said looking at Komachi who sat down in a chair as though Seto's words had knocked the wind out of her. Seto got a strange look on her face.

“Oh my, I should have expected this reaction to such a legendary spoiler ... I bet you're even more frightened of me now. I bet you're wondering what the price for this story is. I should let you cool-off a bit, shouldn't I?”

“I wanted you to reconfirm your position on things. With the appearance of Seina, the history of the galaxy has started to move faster than ever. Do not misunderstand the circumstances.”

“It's a big deal and I will do as much as I can to help given my position,” said Seto.

“That's fine. I, too, have a different stance on that issue now than I did in the past. There is something to be said for protecting each other.” Komachi said.

Seto stared at the image of Hakubi Washu and Akara Naja, which was visible behind Komachi.

“Anyway, why did Washu, the legendary philosopher create the same type ship as Ryo-Ohki for that boy? What are you planning to do with that boy?” Komachi's tone was both compassionate towards Seina and condemnatory towards Seto.

“Because I don't want him to die.”

“What?”

“Neither I nor Washu are extra fond of Mr. Seina. But well, the best way I can put it is we have some rather scary opponents who would rather not see Seina in danger.”

“There are people who scare you? That is almost as shocking as the legendary spoiler.”

“Uhuhuhuhuhuhu, well then see you later! Good night.” Seto said and then she disconnected.

Komachi, freed from that tension, got up with her heart beating in her chest and went straight to her bedroom. When she entered her bedroom, she took off her clothes and toppled down on her bed naked. She had been under so much tension that her eyes looked glazed over.

“The history of the galaxy has started to move greatly ... Things sure have changed since that boy came.”

Originally the Space Pirates existed in a dispersed manner. Unlike the people living in the various space nations, pirates rarely gathered in one place. The act of annihilating them was equivalent to picking needles out of a giant hay stack. Efforts to eradicate them were impossible no matter how much strength and personnel were put to the task.

That's why the GP only tried to protect their luggage from the attacking Space Pirates by hoping they would attack decoys, annihilating them was a pipe dream.

“... But that boy is different.”

Seina could attract those needles to him like a magnet. The range of his attraction was still small, so the damage done was minimal, but if he could expand the scope of his activities in the future, she could only imagine how much damage would occur.

“Indeed ... So they don't want him to die.” Increasing the range of his action would attract a lot of Space Pirates, and if the Guild were to try and get rid of him again they didn't want it to be as bad as what happened with Tarrant and Ryoko the other day.

“No ... to the contrary, that boy is being given a ship comparable to a royal ship ...” Komachi shuddered when she noticed a troubling possibility.

“Is that so?! Are they equipping him for an encounter with the Big Daruma!?” It was highly possible and there was a past encounter where that had occurred.

The energy mass ratio measured at the encounter of Ryo-Ohki the other day was overshadowed by the one recorded from the other mysterious ship. That meant it was equivalent to a royal ship.

(Those royal ships have those troublesome Light Hawk Wings, but Ryo-Ohki doesn't have that, it will have a powerful shield but will it be able to withstand the firepower of Big Daruma? It should be possible to take it out ...)

Komachi imagined Ryo-Ohki fighting the Big Daruma and the battle between them. As a large ship it would be difficult to concentrate fire power on the small Ryo-Ohki. Regardless of the rest of the fleet, the planetary scale ship would be its main enemy, and the large weapons would be hard to direct at Ryo-Ohki. Moreover, if it was equivalent in power to a royal ship, there was a high possibility of it having a teleporting ability. It would be nearly impossible to concentrate firepower on small ship that was moving unpredictably.

(It would be over as soon as it started ...) But if they were to catch it off guard and detect it early and respond quickly, victory would be achievable depending on how things went, it would depend solely on their own luck.

“Do we need to rethink our position on this ...?”

The guild was sure to keep trying to assassinate Seina Yamada. Naturally, however, the other party would become wary of it, and there was a high possibility of them getting sucked into a trap.

And then the act of trying to erase Seina would leave them with their defenses too far gone. The Space Pirates who once competed against the Galactic Federation by dispersing their existence would now have to launch attacks against the Academy, Jurai, and Seniwa.

Moreover, their weakest target was known to their opponent. The Big Daruma which was known for remaining hidden from the GP was a symbol of The Daruma Guild and had become a kind of legend among them. If the Big Daruma was destroyed the guild would lose all of its sway.

"... If we're on a direct course with Seina, it might be better to use the escape path that the Demon Princess has prepared for us after all. ... Well ... in any case, there is definitely still time for me to think about it." Komachi decided on her next course of action and fell into a deep sleep from fatigue right where she fell on the bed.

Chapter Nine: Fuku · Special Training

Seina woke up to find NB crying out for help. “What?! What is going on?”

“Good morning, Seina, Fuku-chan ... Please go to the cafeteria, this is going to get noisy.” Hakuren and the others smiled, pushing Seina and Fuku out the door.”

“Wait, but what about NB ...”

“Oh, that ... Kiriko found it lurking on the outside wall with special equipment ... This is going to get ugly...”

“We decided that NB is a hindrance to your mission and are taking it away for a while. You can get the detailed explanation from Kiriko later when you’re on the Kamidake. Please go about your morning as usual.” Gyokuren whispered and smiled softly.

“Uhm ... Ok ... I understand.”

× × ×

“Good morning,” a receptionist greeted Seina. “Please go ahead.”

Seina was ushered towards the transfer gate ... He didn't know it, but almost all of the apartments residents were assigned as his guards, they were dedicated to him.

Fuku jumped off Seina and then stepped onto the bio-metric plate. The gate started to react. Fuku was a biological key for transferring to the Kamidake. However, if Fuku and the main ship were perfectly in sync, Fuku herself could act as the gate but for now they had to use an external gate.

Seina, who was transferred to the Kamidake Bridge, headed for his seat.

“... When no one is here, it feels quite strange ...” After putting Fuku on the table, Seina looked around.

“Captain, I'm sorry for the noise this morning.”

“No, that's fine, but ...”

“I thought about consulting you on this in advance, but because Fuku's emotional condition is unstable, I decided that I shouldn't talk about our work at home. I didn't want that kind of psychological state witnessed by Fuku.”

Seina noticed Fuku looking at him uneasily. “It's all right, Fuku.” Seina told Fuku with a bright look.

“In fact, we’re thinking of making full-scale subsystem for Kamidake's, we need full access to the systems for that, so we didn't want to put any unnecessary stress on Fuku.”

“Fine... You can go ahead and do it.”

“Good, then let's start... Kamidake, launch!” The ship launched out into space.

“Captain, would you go collect the monitoring equipment?”

“Oh ... Sure.”

“OK, here they are. Please pick this up.” A small container floated about 1 kilometer in front of the Kamidake. They took it on board.

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“Miah?” While Fuku was covered with a helmet-like sensor on her head, she looked up at Kiriko and cried anxiously.

“Fuku, hold on ... Just wear it for a bit longer okay? We’re almost done.”

“Signal recognition check. Sensitivity is good. I was a bit worried but this is going much better than I expected.” Erma who was fixing a repeater to the center of the table looked at Kiriko and replied.

“Miah”

“I know you want us to take it off, but you’re going to have to wait.”

“Sorry, but we need it to record some things ... If it makes you feel any better there will be no battles with Space Pirates today.”

“Miah?”

“Don't worry.” Kiriko smiled and rubbed Fuku's lower jaw with her index finger.

“Captain, I'm going to start the simulated combat starting with the flight test. We will be using the academy's experimental planetary dome.”

“So we’re not going into outer space?”

“We don't want to risk encountering actual pirates.” Kiriko said with a wry smile.

“Oh, I see ...”

“The interior is a highly compressed space, it’s a space about the size of a solar system. Although we can only rent it for 12 consecutive hours, it also has a built in acceleration space, so internally we have about 100 hours or 4 days to operate.”

“That should be enough testing for the data we need, but we will need to keep a tight schedule. We have to only break when Fuku needs rest.”

“Okay, then ... Fuku, let's do our best.”

“Mia!”

× × ×

“Construction value of the control nerve has exceeded thirty!”

“OK, let's quit the program!” Kiriko said.

After processing the collected data, Kiriko headed towards Fuku and removed the equipment from her.

“Myan!” Fuku felt free and frolicked about like an animal shaking water off of itself.

“Good work Fuku-chan, today's work is over.” Kiriko lifted Fuku and walked over to Seina.

“Myan!” Fuku joyfully jumped on Seina's knees.

“Well done, Fuku.”

“Miah ~ ~ ~ ♡”

“Captain, I'll be carrying out the verification experiment in an hour, so I'll need Fuku taken care of.”

“Understood.” Seina hugged Fuku close and took her to the transfer gate.

Seina had a meal made for them and he and Fuku went back to the mansion where he had stayed with Neiju, which was now his private residence, where they ate dinner. Afterwards, they played and then took a bath and Fuku got sleepy. He took her to a room she hadn't been in before.

“Fuku, I'll be back in around three hours, till then you will have to wait here alone.”

While gently stroking Fuku who was half asleep, Seina's expression was a bit cloudy. That was because he was basically locking Fuku in this room. The equipment installed in this room was a shield generator which completely separated Fuku and the ship, and it was necessary to block the influence of Fuku from interfering with the verification experiment. Of course, they could have frozen time on Fuku but Seina decided not to, even though being in that situation might upset her.

“I'll be back.” Seina confirmed that Fuku went to sleep then softly activated the machine and went out of the room.

“Mi ...” Originally, Fuku thought that he went to go study behind his privacy wall as usual, but she soon realized he had gone somewhere else when she heard him step towards the entrance.

“Miah?” Her anxiety grew when the house's door open and shut. She jumped out of her small bed. “Mya, Miaaaa! Mia!!”

However, Fuku was blocked by the shield and was repelled backwards. She tried again and again but it wouldn't budge she even tried scratching it with her claws, but it was in vain.

“Mia! Mia!?” And then Fuku realized that she couldn't access her ship body. “Mia ... miaaaa ~ ~ ~” Fuku eventually got back in bed and shuddered.

“Maiuu ...” Fuku, who kept her eyes closed with anxiety and fear, noticed the faint smell of Seina. It was from a towel that he had wrapped Fuku in a while ago. “Myaaa!” Fuku desperately sniffed the scent of Seina and curled up with the towel. The warmth and softness wrapped her body, and the scent of Seina, calmed her.

“Mia ... Mya ...” Fuku fell into a shallow sleep.

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“I am sorry, I know I'm late.” Seina breathed out as he came onto the bridge. He had taken about 30 minutes longer than expected.

“I have just finished organizing the data, did everything go alright with Fuku-chan?”

“Yes, she slept well.”

“Kiriko, we have access to the ship's surveillance system, Fuku's bedroom feed is coming onscreen.”

Erma projected the image of the bedroom where Fuku was sleeping on a large screen. There was the figure of Fuku wrapped in a towel there.

“... She seems to be doing ok.” Of course, they hadn’t seen her earlier panic attack.

“Good, I'll begin the verification experiment.” Everyone who was there smiled as if relieved.

The next morning Fuku woke up and found Seina next to her.

“Mya ...” Fuku, almost jumped reflexively with joy, but she realized it would wake up Seina, so she suppressed her urge to jump. Her tail however was wagging uncontrollably.

About twenty minutes later, Seina began waking up. “Hwaaaaaaa ~~~ ...” Seina yawned and stretched.

At that moment, Fuku who couldn't stand it any longer rushed to Seina as if she was flying. “Mia! Mia! Mia! Mia! Miah! Mia! Mia!!” Fuku clung to Seina's face and began to cry.

“Aaaaah! Fuku? That hurts, that hurts! Get off!” Seina, accustomed to sudden trouble, quickly hugged Fuku and grasped her and slowly put her down. When Fuku was put on the ground her nails finally retracted.

“Miah ... Miu, Miu, Miu”

“... Fuku, what's wrong with you?”

“Mi, Mi, Mi ...” From Fuku's eyes, tears were falling.

“Oh, you were just lonely ... I'm sorry I had to leave you alone. But to verify the data we got we have to isolate the ship from you, and I needed to be there in case there was an emergency.” Seina explained as he wiped Fuku's eyes with his sleep wear.

“... Mia” Fuku nodded. Although she didn't understand the content of what was going on she understood that last night's thing was necessary for Seina.

“Because you slept well yesterday, I didn't wake you up, but I'll wake you up when I return home tonight.”

“Miah”

“Alright I'm off, be good.” Seina gave Fuku a hug and started to take her to the living room when she jumped out of his arms. “What's wrong?”

Fuku got her towel and came back.

“Oh ... is that your security blanket?”

“Miah”

“Okay ... then, why don't we bring it with us.” They headed to the living room. Kiriko came in as soon as they got there.

“Good morning, Seina-chan, Fuku-chan. How is her physical condition?” Kiriko, who approached Seina, gently stroked Fuku's head.

“Mia ~~~”

“Oh, what's with the towel?”

“I think it's her security blanket.”

“Oh, I see. That brings me back, Kai had one.” Kiriko smiled nostalgically.

“She seemed pretty upset to be left alone.”

“Yes, I can see ... But she will just have to get used to it little by little.”

“Mia”

“... Good girl, breakfast will be ready soon.” Kiriko took her hand off of Fuku and went to the kitchen, Erma and Amane greeted Fuku.

“Mia! Miau ♡” Fuku was in a good mood again.

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“Today we will gather data focusing on the Fire Control Systems.” Like yesterday they took Fuku out around a course but there were shooting targets. They asked her to target them, but she was scared at first until Seina assured her they were harmless and she realized it was like a game and she began targeting them.

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About an hour later Fuku was exhausted.

“Tired already?”

“Let's end this, there's no point in continuing if she's exhausted.”

“OK ... Fine ...” Amane seemed upset by this.

“OK, then Fuku, let's go home.” Seina got Fuku’s favorite towel and Fuku and headed to the transfer gate.

Kiriko, who confirmed that Seina was gone sighed a small sigh. “How do they expect us to get anything done when she tires so easily?”

“It was kind of cruel of them to not build us a subsystem to begin with. Fuku-chan is still a baby.”

“It's a good thing you had the idea to make one Amane.”

“Well, let's finish organizing and incorporating the data we got before the captain comes back.”

“I'm hungry. I can't do anything if I'm tired. Let's eat first.”

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Seina went to the residential area, breathed a deep breath of the dense grass and the smell of water. Fuku did too she seemed to be enjoying it.

“Mi, Mya ~ ~ ~!”

“Shall we take a walk?”

“Mia!” Fuku looked happy at the idea and shook her tail.

There were four transfer gates around the circular pond, but the one he used most of the time was the gate that was closest to his house, and he had almost never been to the other places. Of course, there were four large-sized residential districts, which were quite large that he hadn't explored.

The area he went to was meant to be built up by the staff living there in the future, only a small number of trees had been planted. Nonetheless, the trees that covered the sky like a cage were splendid, combined with the various styles of houses around the area there was some amazing scenery.

Seina felt the urge to lie down on the soft grass under his feet. He took of his shoes and felt it was softer than he imagined.

“Haha!” Seina lay down to form a large T on the grass. “Doesn't it feel good Fuku?”

“Miaa ~ ~”

“Is that so? I'm glad.” He pet Fuku.

“Miah ~ ~ ...” She relaxed.

“Fuku ... I know this is hard for you, but Kiriko is just being strict so we can get this done quickly.”

“Miyaaaaaaa~ ~ ~” Fuku was absorbed being petted.

“Haha, you're not even listening, are you?” After a while Seina got up. “Well, shall we go home soon?”

“Miah? ... Mya ...” Fuku seemed sad. She knew as soon as she got home, she would be left alone so she was hesitant and seemed sad.

“Alright ... Let’s get going.” Seina wrapped Fuku in her favorite towel and picked her up. He hugged her firmly to his chest and took her home.

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“Stay here Fuku, I'll be back.” Like the day before, Seina, who had eaten and bathed, set up the bedroom shield and headed to Kamidake's bridge.

“Miao ... Miau” Fuku cried sadly until Seina's she could no longer hear his footsteps, she jumped into the bed and wrapped herself in her favorite towel. It smelled more like Seina than yesterday.

“Mya ~ ~ ♡” When Fuku closed her eyes, she was desperate to smell the presence of Seina there. Fuku, who began sucking and chewing on the towel that gave her a sense of security as it wrapped around it her and soon, she fell asleep.

Three hours later, Fuku was awakened by Seina who came back, with tears in her eyes she hugged him. She woke up the next morning in a good mood.

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When Seina and Fuku went to the living room, Kiriko and the others were there, and they had breakfast laid out.

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“Seina, Amane will clean up, please go ahead and go to the bridge.” Kiriko said to Seina after the meal.

“But what will I do without everyone else there?”

“I want to clean up the whole house.”

“Doesn’t this house have auto maintenance?” Most of the house maintenance was done by Micro machines and Nano machines.

“I just want to tidy it up, machines can't do that.”

“Really?” Seina looked around.

“It's a hobby of hers ... When it comes to domestic matters, she a perfectionist.” Amane said.

“Ok fine.” Seina realized it was a stress relief thing for her. He headed for the Bridge.

“Well now ... Where to begin?” Kiriko who sent off Seina, looked around the living room with a happy face. However, “Oh, there” Kiriko looked around and as expected she found a small dust pool. Probably due to Seina's bad luck. Slight things could cause Seina to be in danger, things on the floor, food not thrown away, improperly moved furniture, carpets, and Seina couldn't even consider cleaning things up without getting hurt. But for the most part lately the biggest problem was Fuku being right under his footsteps.

“Still, this is Washu-sama's work, it's far less dusty than I thought ...”

While fine-tuning the system, Kiriko noticed Fuku's favorite towel was placed on Fuku's bed. When she picked up the towel, she noticed that it was pretty dirty. Fuku had dragged the towel with her in the park the day before.

“I should take it to the bridge ...” But the grass stain compelled her, the impulse to wash it was strong.

But what settled it was... “What is this!?” The edge of the thing was frayed from being chewed on...

“That ... That ... That ... Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” She realized that Fuku had been sucking on the towel.

“No, Fuku-chan!!” Kiriko hesitated no more. Young Fuku couldn't be putting such a filthy thing in her mouth. She couldn't forgive herself if she gave such a thing to her. Kiriko threw the towel into a completely sterilizing advanced cleaning system.

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“Mia!” Fuku looked uneasy, roaming around on the table with a restless feel.

“What? What's wrong?”

“I seem to have forgotten her favorite towel.”

“Fuku, it's okay, okay, it's just a test today, so don't be afraid.”

“Mia ...”

“’I’ll get you your towel after work is finished.” That said, Seina hugged Fuku for a while. Then Fuku wagged her tail.

“... Mia”

For Fuku, the towel was only a substitute for Seina. And in the past few days she had learned not to be scared of the test.

“Okay, then let's get ready.”

“Miah!” Seina placed Fuku on the table and began hooking her up to the equipment.

“... Seina is going to be a good father.”

“That's true.” Amane and Erma blushed and whispered to each other.

A few minutes later, Kiriko, came to the bridge. She was relieved looking at Fuku who was sitting calmly on the table. “Let's get started.”

By the way, at that time at Amane’s house something was going on – – – – –,

NB (Airi operating it) was coming back online. It was in a time freeze but even if it was called a time freeze it was actually just very slowed down. It was impossible to make localized time come to a complete stop. Airi activated an anti-freeze field and thawed NB out.

“Those harpies ~ ~!! HOW COULD THEY DO THIS TO NB?” NB shouted in the living room as it moved out of the Field.

“Oh look ... the demons been resurrected.”

“That was unexpectedly quick, but it was just as you expected.”

“.....”

Hakuren and her team where having a tea party in the living room, they all glanced at NB.

“Uhm ... Hi there girls ... You didn't see anything ok?”

“It's amazing, it's managed to escape even when time was frozen.”

“Sure ... Amazing ...”

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“Uuuuuuuugh, hey, what do you think you are you doing?” Demon Queen Airi was yelling in the president's office, Mikami was watching.

“Oh Hoho!” Suddenly Airi suddenly raised her face and glared at Mikami. “What are you doing here this early in the morning, did you come here just to watch me?”

“... It was quite entertaining Ho ho Ho.”

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Chapter Ten: Fuku · Escape

On this day, Kamidake had been practicing fighting using the subsystem Amane developed.

As they changed from the conditions of being on planet to outer space, Amane moved the Kamidake and did a trick maneuver, Fuku had gotten use to this and didn't interfere. In the past few days, Fuku had become accustomed to the situation, she thought of it as a fun game, but as expected she got tired after a while, the Kamidake was soon unable to navigate well.

“Kiriko, it seems that we've reached our limit.”

“Well, I'm done collecting data at the moment.”

“OK, reset the simulation program, move the Kamidake to a fixed position.”

“Captain, please remove Fuku's gear.”

“Thank you for your patience.” Seina approached Fuku, and took off the equipment.

“Mia ~~~ ...” Fuku was hugged by Seina and patted on her head, and she was happy.

“Let's go home.” Seina put Fuku on his head and headed to the transfer gate.

“Good job today.” After sending off Seina, Amane went to get everyone food as usual as Kiriko and Erma began processing the data.

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“Ah! I forgot!” Suddenly Kiriko stood up when the meal ended. “I was washing Fuku's towel, I have to give it to her.” Kiriko quickly jumped into the transfer gate and headed to Seina's house at full speed. She opened the door and took out Fuku's towel from the case containing things already washed and headed to the bedroom.

“Sorry Fuku-chan,” as expected Fuku was crying and was stuck to Seina's heels.

“Mya Mia!” Fuku, who noticed the towel Kiriko had, rushed towards Kiriko.

“Ms. Kiriko, that towel ...”

“I am sorry, it was just so dirty, I couldn't bear it ... it had bite marks, I didn't want her putting it in her mouth like that so I washed it.”

“Seina tried to take the towel from Kiriko. Suddenly, a loud alert from NB sounded in the room. “Huh!!?” Kiriko hid behind the scenes with Fuku.

“Mr. Master! Mr. Master! They were so mean to be this is awful ...”

“Hey, hey, calm down.”

“No, I need revenge~! Where did that monster go? I saw her run off!” Listening to NB, Seina understood why Kiriko hid with Fuku.

“I understand, I will listen to your story, just calm down.” Seina headed for the living room with a communications monitor.

“Mia!”

“Fuku-chan.” Kiriko kept Fuku from following Seina. After a while she took Fuku and headed to the living room and confirmed that Seina was behind a privacy wall.

Then Fuku gave up and became quiet.

“Erma, are you there?” Kiriko opened communications to the bridge.

“Oh, Kiriko-san. Apparently, NB has broken out of the time freeze.”

“Seina is going to be busy. Should we postpone things?”

“Yes, that's fine. I feel sorry for Seina.”

Kiriko headed to the bedroom as soon as she got off the line, she put Fuku on the bed with her favorite towel. “Come on, go to bed.”

“Miah?” However, Fuku sniffed the smell of the towel and noticed there was no smell of Seina. “Mia! Mia!”

“All right, I'll stay until Seina comes.” While saying that, Kiriko stroked Fuku.

Fuku was a bit restless, but gently lay down on the bed.

“It's going to take a while.”

“Miah?” Fuku looked curiously at Kiriko's face.

“Once this data collection is over, Fuku-chan you won't even need to board the ship ... you don't have to be scared anymore.”

“Mia!?” Fuku looked up at Kiriko as if surprised, with tears in her eyes.

“What's wrong, have you remembered something scary?” Kiriko hurriedly wiped Fuku's tears with a towel and gently petted her.

“I'm sorry, it's okay, it's okay, don't be scared.”

“Miao ... Mhau.” But Fuku wouldn’t stop crying. Kiriko kept stroking her slowly to calm her down. Then Fuku grabbed the little finger of Kiriko and began to suck it as if she was drinking breast milk. “Oh ... I forgot to feed you!”

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About an hour later, Seina was finally released from NB-Airi's complaining and he headed tiredly to the bedroom.

Seina noticed the quietness of the bedroom and looked on the inside so as not to make a noise. There was Kiriko staring gently at the sleeping Fuku.

(Aunt ... Tsukiko?) For a moment, she resembled Tsukiko. It was just how Tsukiko looked at a young Kai while he was sleeping. (I always envied her looking at Kai like that.) Seina's mother was never that close to him due to his bad luck. But when he slept, his bad luck's influence lessened, for his mother it was the time she was finally allowed to rest, so his mother was always desperate to put Seina to bed.

“...!” Kiriko noticed Seina and left Fuku stealthily. “Sorry I left you with NB.”

“It's ok, that was a good call ... I'm just kind of tired now.”

“Haa ... Sorry about that.”

“When I saw you with Fuku, it reminded me of Aunt Tsukiko and Kai.”

“Uhm, okay?” Kiriko didn't know if that was a compliment and to her Tsukiko was now a rival.

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“Oh, Captain, are you ok?” Erma asked when he came onto the bridge.

“The complaints never ended, it just went on and on for hours.”

“Sorry about that, but thanks to you playing decoy, we had enough time to finish everything. We can start at any time.”

“Our data collection finished sooner than expected.”

“Alright, we can test it on the way back home.”

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– – – Fuku had a dream.

– – – A memory of Fuku before she was born.

– – – After moving from Washu’s shoulder to the egg nucleus.

—— A Voice was heard. “..., ..., Miau, Miah” “Hmm? What's wrong Ryo-Ohki?” “Miau” “Oh, this kid? She's your ... ...well ... Sister.” “Miah! Myan” A gentle voice and a joyful voice. And the feel of the warm hand transmitted through the eggshell. “Huh ... aren't you excited to see what kind of child she will grow up to be? I'm looking forward to it.” Finally, Fuku's dream ended and a new one began.

—— Gentle but quiet and lonely darkness. Suddenly light and voice, and the first thing she could recognize was the face of Seina.

– – – Ah, this guy! This person!

— I'm so happy! I'm so happy! I'm so happy! I'm so happy! I'm so happy! Happy!! “Mia!!” Fuku woke up trying to jump to Seina.

“Mia! Miah! Mia ... ...” There was no appearance of Seina anywhere she looked, there was nobody there other than Fuku in a dimly lit room. Fuku suddenly became scared and looked for her towel, but it didn't smell of Seina anymore. There was a smell of Kiriko slightly attached to it but that was it.

“Miah, Mi ... ...” Fuku pressed her nose to the towel with all her might. The slight smell of Kiriko was comforting for Fuku now and relieved some fear.

Fuku loved Kiriko, Amane, Elma, Hakuren, Karen, Suiren, and Gyokuren. But she disliked them when they were on the bridge at work ... Well, it's more accurate to say she was scared of them. Of course, they scolded Fuku when she did bad things but that didn't make her afraid of them. However, when they did it on the bridge, they treated her coldly as if she was a machine. And not only that, but they also treated her like an unresponsive machine. Especially in battle she felt only Seina was there for her.

“Mew ... ... Mya”

Fuku was born to be Seina's ship. And she knew that it made her feel happy. That's why she felt it was a bit unnatural that she was unfit to act in that capacity in the present moment. She understood vaguely that Kiriko and others built the subsystem for that reason. But when Kiriko told her she wouldn't even be needed on board it upset her. All she could think about was Seina taking several days to come back, maybe even months. That would make her feel even worse than she did right then. Her fear of the pirates was not only a fear of her own death but rather also the fear that she couldn't safely pilot the ship, destruction of the hull of the ship would mean the death of Seina. For Fuku, that was was her biggest fear. She didn't want to think that she would not be able to see Seina again.

Fuku began to cry at the thought “Mya! ... Miao ... Mya!?” And then, she remembered her dream.

– – Ah, this kid? She's ... ... Well, she's your sister.

—— Miah! Myan. The warmth of Ryo-Ohki's hands transmitted from the eggshell.

“Mia!!”

—— Ryo-Ohki ... If you are my sister, you can tell me how to move the ship successfully!
– – – In that case!

“Mia! Miah! Mia!”

Fuku imagined Seina and Kiriko praising her piloting and her body trembled with excitement. That jubilation was soon passed down to the ship. And that was just the moment that Seina entered the transfer gate.

“Huh ... What?” Seina ended up in the public bath. “Why did I end up here?” Seina hurried back to the transfer gate and tried to set a destination but there was no response. Seina dared to enter, but only ended up in another part of the public bath. He tried over and over, but there was no way out from the public bath.

About two hours later, Seina decided it was futile and at last and sat down on the bench.

“Well, Kiriko should come by in 8 hours or so ... But ... I’m worried about Fuku.” Seina stared at the bathtub in front of him. He took off his clothes and jumped into the bathtub.

Actually, Seina was confined there by Fuku who didn't want him to stop her from heading to the Earth.

× × ×

A few hours after Fuku had escaped.

Airi who received Kiriko's reports in the Chairman's Office was not angry, but rather just staring at Kiriko’s and Hakuren's groups. However, the silence was very heavy and came with tremendous pressure.

“There was a report from a patrol ship that visually recognized the Kamidake, but it didn't respond when hailed.”

Mikami who was checking the monitor next to Airi got up with a big sigh. “Ryo-Ohki is famous for being difficult to detect, that's why she was able to storm Jurai.”

“Do you think Fuku has gone on a joy ride?” Amane asked loudly, unable to stand the silence.

“You guys ... Is it true you built a full-blown subsystem?” She was not glaring, but Kiriko was intimidated by being in Airi's line of sight.

“Seina-chan ... No, the Captain's duties are still too heavy for Fuku to take on, and we cannot afford to wait for her to grow up, so I decided that a subsystem was an essential need.” Kiriko said as objectively as possible.

The existence of Kamidake was still a top secret, it was a ship in the middle of testing its experimental use. The conversation here was a private one and they were as good as family. However, this blunder was bad enough that it may have resulted in Seina being assigned new

assistant staffing. For that reason, Kiriko decided that the formality of speaking like a subordinates would to their boss should be maintained in this conversation.

“We also thought Kiriko's judgment was correct.” The other girls affirmed. It was a manifestation of intention that responsibility was everyone's.

“... You girls are some pieces of work, you know that.” Airi seemed to be amazed.

“What??”

“This whole time you were analyzing Fuku-chan and didn't even notice when she was scared or crying, or even when she was lonely. All you saw was a computer unit not doing its job.”

“What!?”

“She's having a hard time because she is a scared child and somehow you only see her as a machine that isn't working and you're just irritated she won't do as commanded.” The formality between Airi and Kiriko changed to that like one between a mother and her daughters.

“Even if she was a machine, it is a good thing to have affection for all things. To give love to something to try to know it's perspective ... That girl has a will of her own ... Fuku-chan and that ship is a person of its own ... The more you know her, the more the ship will know you. That is the power of Ryo-Ohki. The power of Jurai's ships ... Don't pamper her, but please embrace her more, listen to her, talk to her. For Washu-sama, Fuku-chan is the same as a daughter. She left her with you hoping you would raise her well.”

“…… I'm sorry.” Kiriko looked down.

In retrospect, Fuku's grim eyes on the bridge were always directed only to Seina. The only one who cared about how she felt. Well, Neiju as well. In private, Fuku had approached Kiriko and she nurtured her, but she never asked Kiriko for help on the bridge.

(Fuku-chan ... I'm sorry) Kiriko cried.

“Honestly, you should have realized that on your own.”

“……eh?” Kiriko raised her face while wiping the tears in the corner of her eyes.

“Why do you think that bridge is shaped to face Fuku-chan in the center? Seina seems to have caught on unconsciously but you should have known better.”

“You're right ... Do you know where Kamidake is going yet?”

“There is no point in searching for it, there is only one place that child is going to ... It's mother's place ...”

“Oh!” Everyone raised their voices at the same time to Mikami's words. They started running to the transfer gate all at once.

The Kamidake was only invisible to other ships, not to the naked eye. While they were talking, a pair of spies who were hiding in the outer ring of the academy captured an image of Kamidake leaving the Academy. That information was instantly transmitted to other pirates.

× × ×

Not long afterwards, Space Pirates found the Kamidake and captured it. Specifically, two brothers Wight and Jate.

“Bro, we did it!”

“Woohoo!” There were many other pirates who had been after her, but they captured her first, so under pirate rule the Kamidake was all theirs.

“How much do you think we'll make?”

“Enough to pay off this ship we just bought with a three-hundred-year loan!”

“Yeah, but how much will we have after that!!”

“We can probably organize a small fleet with a few large ships! If this ship really is the same tech as Ryo-Ohki, we can probably buy a whole country!” The men of the bridge cheered.

—— Mia Gahiaaaaaaaaa An!!

“... Fuku!!” Seina who had taken a nap, woke up to Fuku's cry. The warmth of hot water made him fall asleep. In the sky, an image of the battle was projected and Fuku’s crying voice was heard.

Seina didn't even dry off; he quickly put on his uniform and ran towards the transfer gate. Fortunately, after going in he came out to the residential area, and then he ran to the gate to the bridge in the central pond.

“Fuku!”

“Miyaaaaaaaaa Ann!!” Fuku was crying while trying to cling to the table. She was paralyzed with fear and was worried of being shot down. Fuku did not want to let Seina die, she desperately stayed in place.

“Wait a minute, Fuku!” Seina sat down and took over the manual controls. “I studied the manual. It's a good thing I took some lessons on how to operate this thing.”

Seeing that Seina had taken the burden of steering off her, Fuku perked up, “Mia aa an Ann!”

As soon as he took control of the hull, Fuku rushed towards him without hesitation. She began to cry.

“Fuku, it's all right now, everything's going to be fine.” Seina talked to Fuku to calm her down.

Even though he had taken over the controls, Fuku's influence was not completely gone. Fuku's fear sometimes affected his steering greatly. Next, Seina checked the state of the hull with an external monitor. It was covered in a familiar red paint. Fuku has not yet experienced battle and had no idea how to avoid having her route intercepted. She had sailed in a straight line towards her destination. For that reason, she had also received a surprise attack by Space Pirates with paint bullets. Unlike when they fled with Seto's baggage, the Kamidake's route was easy to read. So, he knew help would be coming. The only thing worrying Seina was his lack of experience piloting and his bad luck.

The girls went back home and began scanning their information sources for spotting of the Kamidake. Erma was the first to find things on the Pirates' network, she suddenly got a call from her adjutant.

"Captain, look!" He showed a feed of the Kamidake being captured.

"I understand, can you send me a detailed location?"

"I am investigating now. I will report it when I find out."

"Please do."

"Kiriko-sama! Jurai has information."

"So does the information department of the Academy, but Erma's Intel should come faster." And the next moment Kiriko said, "I got it!" Kamidake's location was displayed on all their monitors.

Kiriko searched for the location of the Kamidake while comparing it with the data. "I found it!" There was a super space emitter that was installed as a result of Seto's package delivery to prevent that from happening again, it identified the Kamidake's location.

The girls looked at a feed of the ship. "Oh no, they've been paint balled!"

"But the Kamidake should have the ability to break free from that!?"

"Yes, but Fuku is in a panicked state!"

"That's a lot of pirates, it's going to be hard to do this with a single ship ..."

"It will take time to organize a large rescue team!"

"Oh yeah ... but you know what's close by ... a Juraian secret supply base ..." Amane showed them what was on their monitor.

"How do you know that?" Hakuren stood up angrily.

"From Mihoshi's people, she invited me to visit it with her." Amane said without hesitating.

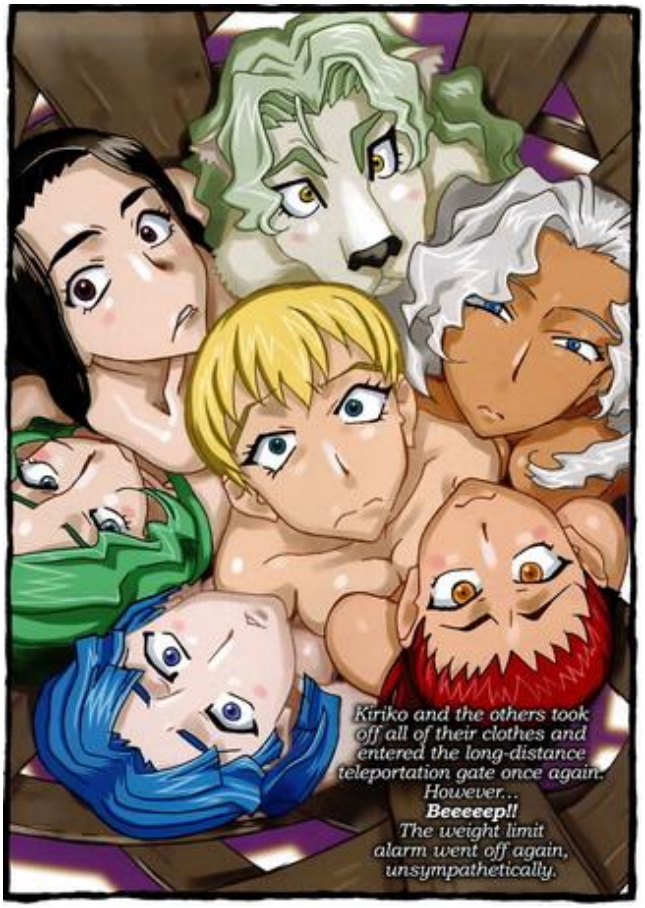
"Mihoshi-sama ..."

“We can get there by long-distance transfer gate in the President's office.”

× × ×

In the President's office, Airi and Mikami where relaxing with some tea. Seina's crew came in all at once from the usual transfer gate and ran past Airi like a heard of runaway shiba inu's to the long-distance transfer in the back.

The beep sounded alarmingly and violently.


Kiriko and the others took off all of their clothes and entered the long-distance teleportation gate once again. However...
Beeeeep!!
The weight limit alarm went off again, unsympathetically.

”Overweight?!” Kiriko looked around dumbfounded. Calling any of the girl’s fat was a lie.

“Shit, make yourselves lighter!” Amane said everyone took off their clothes.

They rushed into the long-distance transfer gate again. However, Beeeee–– ––––––P.

“That's it! Just a few more...! Oooooooo! What an Angle! Superb view, superb view! When Mr. Master sees this, he will get a nosebleed for sure ~~ Yea ...”

Doooooooooooooong!” NB was kicked out of the gate.

They were now under the weight limit and the gate transferred then.

× × ×

“Oh, this year's tea crop sure came out lousy.” Almost at the same time. Seto was having a relaxing tea with Minaho on the Mikagami Bridge.

“Seto, communication from Amane.”

Amane, dressed in Juraian operator clothes, was displayed. “Please lend me the Chobimaru!”

“What!!??” Everyone below Seto was taken aback.

“Oh my, how straightforward. The Chobimaru? What are you using it for? Are you going to start a war?”

The Chobimaru was a planetary battleship. Moreover, it was a third-generation Royal tree-ship. They could defeat most countries with it alone.

“Even before Neiju's case, we went through lot of hardships for you.”

“Well, it is true that I owe you a favor, and I understand you are in a hurry ...” The expression of Seto, which was a little shaky, turned into a gentle smile. Behind Amane you could see the bridge of Chobimaru. Mashisu Kuramitsu and Kiriko with confused faces, and Hakuren's group.

“Fine ... but please, don’t ask me for favors after the fact from now on.”

“Thank you.” Amane cut off communications.

“Oh boy ... This will be interesting.” Seto held her teacup in her hands. Actually, the Mikagami was heading to the same place as the Chobimaru.

“There's no pulling one over on you, Seto-sama.”

“Get ready to court the pirates ...”

× × ×

Mashisu Kuramitsu was standing next to Amane, she sighed. She was the wife of Misao Kuramitsu and the adopted daughter of Kamiki Seto Jurai. During a certain incident before, Misao had planned the assassination of Masaki Tenchi ... Well, she went along with it because she was in love with Misao who she had known since he was a child. But because Misao's grandfather, Minami, opposed their marriage for status reasons, Seto adopted Mashisu so she could get approved. Of course, it was not out of charity for Seto, but also so she could establish formal ties between Jurai and the Kuramitsu.

“I can’t believe you guys.” Mashisu glared at Amane with a keen eye.

Mashisu was originally a soldier. The left side of her face had been blown away in a past battle and the color of the material used to restore it was different. Her hair style and fearless appearance gave an impression like that of a leopard.

“I'm sure Seto understands.” Amane said. They were friends via Mihoshi. It was the same for Kiriko, “Sorry Mashisu-san.”

“Well, I couldn't say no either way, knowing Ryo-Ohki's sister's in trouble.” Mashisu said with a smile.

× × ×

Chapter Eleven: Fuku · True Awakening

Jate's ship detected a royal ship jumping out nearby. “The Devil Princess of Jurai?”

“The mass ratio is different! It's a planetary scale ship!”

The Chobimaru jumped out behind the Space Pirates.

“A planetary scale ship!? And it's also Royal tree ship???”

“What do we do brother?! Why aren't we running?!”

× × ×

“Can you talk with that girl?” Mashisu looked at the Royal Tree in the back of the bridge.

– – – No problem... The laser-like nerve light began to radiate one after the other to the terminal placed around a small fountain.

“... ... Chobimaru!? What's the matter?” The next moment Mashisu cried, images of the bridge of Kamidake were displayed one after another.

“Miaaaaaaaaan! Miaa! Mia -aaaaaaan!! The cries of Fuku reverberated onto the bridge of Chobimaru.

“Fuku-chan! Captain!” Kiriko spoke to Seina on the monitor.

“Kiriko! How?”

“The power of this ship's royal tree. Can you manage to get away from Space Pirates?”

“Well ... ... with the paint bullets I can’t even manage a short distance jump!”

“You can't remove the paint? Fuku!” Noticing Kiriko's call, Fuku who was crying, turned towards Kiriko and cried to ask for help.

“Miaaaaaaaaan! Miaa! Mia -aaaaaaan!!

“.....” At that moment, when Fuku's crying face was reflected, the bridge of Chobimaru got quiet. All of the crew in there was staring at Fuku's appearance, but the next moment.

“Screw those guys, take no survivors!” Mashisu's men muttered in a low voice. They could not endure seeing adorable little Fuku crying. Almost all the women who were there felt the same.

“Calm down! The Kamidake isn't properly shielded, we can't attack!” The Chobimaru could accidentally hurt the Kamidake even at the lowest power settings.

“Why aren't they shooting?”

“Ah ha ha! As I thought, they fear that ship will also get hurt in the fire, how lucky for us!”

“It seems that ship is still in the process of being remolded, there are marks all over the surface!”

On the exterior of Chobimaru there was continental sized graffiti, written by Ryoko piloting the Ryo-Ohki. If the Space Pirates knew the meaning, they would have laughed a lot. However, no one noticed.

“How much longer till we can jump?”

“Thirty seconds!”

“Gaaaaaaah .....” Kiriko desperately thought of a way to overcome this situation, suddenly she thought of Airi's words.

– – – Why do you think that the bridge is shaped to face Fuku-chan?

“Oh!” Kiriko who realized something began to yell to Seina loudly.

“Seina, please put our images in the position where we usually sit!”

“I understand!” Seina did not ask why, but he did as she said.

× × ×

Kiriko's monitor spoke to Fuku. “Fuku-chan! Fuku-chan!”

“Fuku! Hey Fuku!” Amane also noticed Kiriko's intent.

“Fuku-chan. Hang in there Fuku-chan!” Erma too.

“Fuku-chan!” Hakuren.

“Hey Fuku!” Karen.

“Fuku-chan!” Gyokuren.

“... Fuku ... chan.” Suiren also spoke as fast as she possibly could.

“Look, there all rooting for us. They came to save us.”

“Mya, Mia?” Fuku looked up at Seina with watery eyes.

“Fuku-chan!” “Fuku!” “Fuku-chan!” “Fuku-chan!” “Fuku!” “Fuku-chan!” “... Fuku-chan.”

“Miah?”

“You are Ryo-Ohki, a legendary ship's, younger sister. You will become a legend too, and you're not alone anymore ... everyone ..... we're all here for you!”

“Fuku-chan!” “Fuku!” “Fuku-chan!” “Fuku-chan!” “Fuku!” “Fuku-chan!” “... ... Fuku-chan.”

“Mia! Mia!” Fuku jumped onto the central table.

“Fuku-chan!” “Mia!” Kiriko called, Fuku responded.

“Fuku!” “Mia!” Amane called, Fuku responded.

“Fuku-chan!” “Mia!” Erma called, Fuku responded.

“Fuku-chan!” “Mia!” Hakuren called, Fuku responded.

“Fuku!” “Mia!” Karen called, Fuku responded.

“Fuku-chan!” “Mia!” Gyokuren called, Fuku responded.

“... ... Fuku-chan” “Mia!” Suiren called, Fuku responded.

– – – I understand! Understand! Understand! Understand! I understand! I understand! I understand!!

—— Kiriko, Amane, Erma, Hakuren, Karen, Gyokuren, Suiren! “Mia! Miah! Mia! Mia! Mia! Mia! Miaa! Mia!!” Fuku cried happily.

And then.

“Fuku!”

In response to Seina’s voice, “Miao Oo Oo Oo Oo ~~~~~~~~!” She gave a loud cry.

At that moment, Fuku activated all of the Kamidake's systems to full power. The paint bullets sticking to the hull of the Kamidake were removed in an instant. The gravitational energy generated from that broke the ship free from the tractor beams of the Space Pirates and it moved insanely quick almost teleporting and came instantly outside the circle of pirates.

× × ×

“We did it!”

“Okay! Main cannon launch prepared!” Mashisu announced. Her expression was burning with anger.

“... Wait ... There is a capture order coming from Seto ... Captain, please stop the attack.”

“God damn it. Shut up! Ready the cannon.

Chobimaru! Main cannon fi...!” Shortly before Mashisu said the order, Kiriko jumped her and covered her mouth.

“Uga! Gugo! Gaga Gaga ~~~!!”

“Hey calm down Mashisu!”

“Recommend that the pirates surrender as soon as possible!” Kiriko shouted.

“Roger!” Mashisu's men responded, and they hailed the Space Pirates on an open channel.

× × ×

“Brother ..... It's no good! We’re doomed!”

“Don't give up yet!”

“But that's a royal tree ship? What if they do the genocide dance?”

“By the time they start, we’ll have jumped off.”

“Jumping in 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 .....”

“Big brother.”

“Keep silent!”

“... ... Three, two, one ...” And at that moment when the ship was ready to jump.

—— Miyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaoo ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Ryo-Ohki came jumping out making space quake.

“Ryo-Ohki?!”

“Why did it come to help?”

The impression that Ryo-Ohki was hostile to Jurai remained persistent among Space Pirates. As for the incident the other day, Ryo-Ohki's resurrection was often exaggerated and rumored, so those who weren't there still thought of Ryo-Ohki as a friend.

—— Miyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaoo ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“Oh ..... Brother, what about the ship that we chased after ...”

“Wait, you don't think they're really related, do you .....?”

“Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah Aa!”

Because Ryo-Ohki had caused such a heavy spatial earthquake, a super spatial jump was impossible now.

—— Miyaaaaaaaaaaaaaao!

“..... Stop ... Stop, please help us ~~~~~~!! Please, we surrender, help us!” They begged the Chobimaru for help.

—— “Miyaaaaaaaaaa ~ ~ ~” Nonetheless, Ryo-Ohki’s anger was not quelled so easily. Until she noticed her sister.

—— “Miah.” The Kamidake got closer and talked to Ryo-Ohki.

—— “Mi yaaaa oo ..... Oo?”

—— “Miah, Miah.” The Kamidake began to fly around Ryo-Ohki.

—— “Myan, Mia.”

– – – “... ... Miao ... ... Miah?”

—— “Miah! Miah!”

—— “Miah!”

Ryo-Ohki's anger went away upon talking to the Kamidake. She jumped with pleasure at seeing her sister. The two ships started jumping together like kittens playing.

—— “Miau! Miah!”

—— “Miah! Miah! Miah!”

× × ×

“Mya! Mia!”

Fuku and Ryo played with the Imperial Tree inside the “Chobimaru”. Fuku ran around Chobimaru. Chobimaru was talking to Fuku with its nerve light.

“Captain, we have rounded up all the pirates, shall we leave?”

“Um ... ... Let’s stay here just a little while longer.”

“... So, is Fuku is finally able to fully control her ship?” Airi asked Kiriko from a monitor.

“I am sorry for causing all this trouble.” Kiriko bowed.

“Well, as a result, complete synchronization of Fuku and the Kamidake has been achieved, and a lot of Space Pirates also were caught ... ... So, I think you can use that as a decent excuse. Please submit a detailed report within 24 hours.”

“OK.”

“Come to think of it, Seina. You should take a quick vacation, please go back to Earth.”

“Eh? But ... .”

“The GP Academy will soon be on vacation and Seina, I'm sure your parents will be glad to see you.”

“But they told me I was an obstacle to their business before, I don't know if I will be welcomed ...”

“I'm sure they will be glad to see your face, I can arrange to get them some souvenirs, but I should consult with Kiriko-chan on that first. If they aren't, you can always stay at Tenchi's place, so don't worry.” At that time, Airi noticed Hakuren's group behind Seina. “..... Don't worry. We will have someone else manage the house.”

“Oh really! So, we can come!?” Hakuren's expression got brighter.

“Yes, but you must all attend a briefing meeting with Kiriko-chan, on precautions to take when visiting the Earth.”

“Oh, thank you, thank you.” The girls in Hakuren's group bowed deeply.

“Seina, I told you to take a vacation, but Washu, who is on the planet, wants to check the Kamidake and Fuku. We want to avoid any more possible troubles in advance before we begin our full-scale operation.”

“Ok, then, then what about NB ...?”

“Oh, that's right ... Well, you won't be able to bring it with you, keep it on the Kamidake.”

“OK.”

“If anything comes up, I'll contact you again. Well then, everyone have fun and good luck.” Airi disappeared while sending a meaningful wink to Kiriko. It took a short while to realize what it meant.

* * * **Translators’ note: *cough* Tsukiko * * ***

“... Seina-chan?” Kiriko noticed Seina looking into the universe reflected on the monitor of the bridge and got closer to him.

“What's wrong?”

“Earth ... It's been almost a year since then.” Seina muttered with deep emotion.

“A lot sure has happened ...”

“Ehehe ... Well ... A lot of things have happened not just with you Seina, you'll be surprised when we return to Earth.”

“Oh? Did something bad happen?” But Kiriko gave him a big smile to dispel his anxiety.

“No, you'll just have to wait and see.”

“Oh, I guess that's right .....” Upon seeing Kiriko's smile Seina's expression gradually relaxed.

When he thought about it, he didn't have many good memories of the Earth. Originally when he came to the academy, he was told by Kiriko to return to Earth. That was equivalent to returning to prison. But for Seina who had made it out into the vast universe, he was still strongly aware the Earth was his homeland.

There were many dark and sad things to remember there, but there were also a fun memories. Fun memories were all he was going to remember from here on out, and he was going to back to the Earth to make even more fun memories.

“... ... I want to return to Earth as soon as possible.” Seina’s expression was shining brightly and happily.

Afterword: Concluding Theater Part 5

“Well, good luck, Huhufufufu.” Airi's laughter, was heard from the other side of the receiver.

(Oh no, he's coming back so soon!) Tsukiko was panicking. She would have been fine had the incident with Kuisu Panta not happened.

“Damn you Kuisu!” She felt envious for Kiriko but soon came to the conclusion that Seina and she would be around for a long time. She didn't mind waiting.